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KYIV POST

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SEPTEMBER 6TH, 2007

Vol. 12, Issue 36

Privat bids high to buy Aussie mining assets

By NAZAR KUDREWSKY

Billionaires Igor Kolomoisky and Gennady Bogolyubov, majority owners of Ukraine's so-called Privat business group, raised eyebrows across the global mineral resources business when a company they control made a last-minute \$736 million bid for a prized Australian manganese and nickel miner.

In bidding for Consolidated Minerals, the camera-shy owners of Privat entered into the arena of leading mineral resource companies and pushed forward with their quiet but aggressive expansion plans. Should the cash-flushed Privat group succeed with the acquisition, it will establish itself as a giant, and possibly a leader on the world ferroalloy market, analysts said.

Privat's surprising bid through an offshore vehicle called Palmayr Enterprises was revealed in an Aug. 31 article in the *Financial Times* as an 11th-hour takeover bid that trumped rival takeover offers pitched by Territory Resources and Pallinghurst Resources.

Palmayr already holds a 14 percent stake in Consolidated Minerals, according to the *FT* article, which cited



Ukrainian billionaire Gennady Bogolyubov, one of two main owners of the so-called Privat business group, said their bid for Australia's Consolidated Minerals represents excellent value for shareholders. (Roman Olearchyk)

Bogolyubov as saying: "Palmayr's cash offer represents excellent value for Consolidated Minerals shareholders."

On Sept. 3, the board of Consolidated Minerals advised shareholders to

accept Privat's offer. As of Sept. 5, shareholders were still contemplating the offers.

see **PRIVAT**, page 8

SBU: Poisoning, Gonggadze cases will be solved soon

By STEPHEN BANDERA

The acting chief of Ukraine's intelligence agency thinks that the finish line is near in the poisoning case of President Viktor Yushchenko and hinted at progress in the seven-year-old investigation into the murder of journalist Georgiy Gonggadze.

This week, on Sept. 5, Ukraine marked three years from the date that Yushchenko, now head of state, claims to have been poisoned during a late night dinner while a candidate in the 2004 presidential race.

Also this month, on Sept. 16, the country will mark seven years since the disappearance of muckraking journalist Gonggadze.



SBU chief Valentyn Nalyvaichenko. (UNIAN)

Presidential poisoning

"The poisoning case is not doomed. The Prosecutor General's Office, State Security Service are working very seriously [on this case]," Valentyn Nalyvaichenko, acting head of the State Security Service, or SBU, told *Glavred* magazine on Sept. 3.

"I will not make announcements until the PGO completes two-three additional examinations and all the dots will be [linked]. I think the finish line is not far," he added.

Earlier in August, a high-ranking SBU official told journalists that suspects involved in the poisoning of the future

president of Ukraine will soon be named and the dioxin used in Yushchenko's poisoning came from a Russian laboratory.

Some sources said the poisoning case could take a prominent role in the snap parliamentary elections scheduled for Sept. 30, particularly if key details leak out just ahead of the vote implicating political heavyweights in the crime.

Speaking during a televised press conference from London last month, exiled Russian oligarch Boris Beresovsky told Ukrainian journalists that

see **SBU**, page 8

Gov't cuts into visa-free travel

By JOHN MARONE

The government of Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich has moved to roll back Ukraine's liberal entry rules for visiting Westerners.

But officials insist the new rules are primarily aimed at curbing illegal migration.

The Cabinet of Ministers issued a resolution, "On Changes in the Regulations on the Entry and Stay of Foreign Nationals and Stateless Persons into Ukraine, Their Exit from Ukraine and Transit Through the Territory of Ukraine," on July 11.

The resolution took effect on July 26, following its publication in the government newspaper *Uryadoviy Kurier* on July 26.

According to a statement released on Aug. 20 by the Kyiv office of the international law firm Beiten Burkhardt

see **VISA**, page 9

Ukrainian billionaire snaps up stake in 1+1 through CME for \$110mln

By STEPHEN BANDERA

A bitter legal struggle over a stake in one of the country's most popular television channels has ended in a truce – of sorts.

And despite a flurry of activity surrounding Studio 1+1, analysts have put aside past worries about media being utilized as a political weapon in Ukraine, insisting that the developments are not related to the imminent parliamentary elections.

On Aug. 30, NASDAQ-traded Central European Media Enterprises (CME), controlled by US billionaire Ronald S. Lauder and heir to the Estee Lauder fortune, announced that Ukrainian tycoon Igor Kolomoisky had acquired about 3 percent of the publicly-traded company's premium stock for \$110 million. CME also announced that Kolomoisky will join its board of directors.

In Ukraine, CME controls stakes in three television channels, including Studio 1+1 – the country's second most-watched station.

The following day, Ukrainian media reported that one of CME's partners in Ukraine intends on filing a lawsuit against CME in the International Court of Arbitration in Paris.

The reports initially speculated that Borys Fuchsman, who owns a stake in

"THE DISPUTE IS BETWEEN RODNIANSKY-FUCHSMAN AND OUR AMERICAN PARTNERS."

– Borys Fuchsman

1+1 with CME and Studio 1+1 co-owner Oleksandr Rodniansky, plans on filing the claim in connection with the Kolomoisky acquisition and appointment. Fuchsman and Rodniansky were defendants in a bitter legal battle over a stake in 1+1 initiated by Kolomoisky in 2005.

But Fuchsman told the *Post* that the suit in the Paris court is in no way

related to the news of Kolomoisky's acquisition of CME shares.

"The dispute is between Rodniansky-Fuchsman and our American partners [Bermuda-registered CME]. We have a shareholders agreement in place that provides us with a 40 percent interest in CME's media assets in Ukraine. We are talking about the Citi and Kino television channels in which CME has a 65 percent interest," Fuchsman told the *Post*.

CME acquired interests in the Kino and Citi channels, previously known as the Gravis channel, in January 2006. The company denied any knowledge of Fuchsman's alleged suit and declined to comment on his statements.

On Sept. 4, CME announced that it has secured 60 percent ownership in Studio 1+1 by registering 42 percent direct ownership in the company, which holds the television network's broadcasting license via an unnamed Ukrainian subsidiary company.

see **CME**, page 9

Sale marred by political speculation

By JOHN MARONE



The government has announced it will auction off the state's blocking stakes in six regional electricity distribution companies, known in Ukrainian as oblenergos.

As the state no longer controls the so-called oblenergos, and the government's other privatization efforts have nearly ground to a halt this year, the tenders appear to be welcome news and could beef up state coffers.

However, all six oblenergos are the subjects of bitter disputes for full control by competing Ukrainian and Russian tycoons. And the tenders have been announced just a month ahead of the country's snap parliamentary elections, which were called to end the political deadlock between pro-Western President Viktor Yushchenko and his arch rival, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich.

see **TENDERS**, page 14



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KYIV POST The Week

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SEPTEMBER 6TH, 2007

NGO: vote marred by vandalism



By **STEPHEN BANDERA**

Opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko changed her cross-country travel plans to central Ukraine, instead traveling on Sept. 4 to Donetsk Region, the heartland of support Premier Viktor Yanukovich, to meet with injured supporters at a district hospital.

The feisty opposition leader's arrival resulted in broken glass and minor injuries, as anti-Tymoshenko demonstrators scuffled with her supporters.

Tymoshenko met three student campaigners who said they were attacked after midnight on Sept. 2 because they were wearing her Byut bloc's signature white T-shirts. Meanwhile, a hospitalized miner said that Byut supporters attacked him, Studio 1+1 reported.

The incident in Yelizavetivka was the first widely-reported case of alleged electoral violence. Such "minor" incidents can be expected to rise as Sept. 30 approaches, but their levels are currently low according to the Committee of Voters of Ukraine (CVU).

"No political party can be singled out as engaging in more or less violence.

see **WATCH**, page 7

Kyiv metro heading for major expansion

By **ELISABETH SEWALL**

Over the next five years, the Kyiv metro system is planning to spend \$3 billion on major expansion plans, including the addition of 20 new stations, at least one new line, and several other features.

Although metro expansion plans have been repeatedly delayed and in the works for several years, Kyiv Metropolitan, the company that runs the city's subway system, announced plans to speed up work over the next five years at a press conference Aug. 9.

Petro Miroshnikov, director of the Kyiv Metropolitan, said that the company will need to build four to five metro stations per year to reach its goal. While many of the projects are due to be completed by 2012, in time for the European Soccer Championships, portions of the expansion plans aren't expected to be finished until after 2020.

Miroshnikov said that in addition to hiring Kyivmetrobud, a Kyiv-based metro construction company that has been building Kyiv's metro since the first line was constructed in 1960, Kyiv Metropolitan will also be enlisting foreign companies for construction projects. Kyivmetrobud only has



Kyiv officials hope in the near future to replace the capital's aging metro trains and planned metro lines with a new modern stock of metro wagons as depicted in the above photograph. (Courtesy photo)

the capacity to build one metro station a year, Miroshnikov added.

The construction of Kyiv's metro started in 1960, and it was the third metro system built in the former Soviet Union. Currently, Kyiv's metro includes three lines, with a total of 45 stations. Approximately 1.6 million

riders use the metro daily, which is just over 50 percent of the city's official population of 3 million. While the metro system is owned by the Kyiv City Council, it is operated by Kyiv Metropolitan.

see **METRO**, page 4

Rada defies president with session

By **STEPHEN BANDERA**

With elections less than a month away, the front-running Party of Regions, led by Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, is borrowing a few pages from the opposition's handbook in their quest to win the most votes.

On Sept. 4, nearly 270 legislators from the governing coalition gathered in the parliament defying a presidential order that dissolved the legislature.

In a televised address on the eve of the extraordinary session, President Viktor Yushchenko referred to it as a "provocation" and "illegitimate" and said it was aimed at "sabotaging" the Sept. 30 vote.

The governing coalition of Yanukovich, which also includes the Socialists and Communists, failed to bring 300 legislators into parliament. If they had succeeded, they could have rendered the Sept. 30 elections unnecessary, according to a legal opinion expressed last week by Justice Minister Oleksandr Lavrynovych.

Instead, legislators voted to do away with blanket immunity from prosecution for government officials – a cause that has been championed as an election issue by the Yushchenko-loyal Our

see **RADA**, page 7

Ukrainians spend more on weddings as purchasing power rises

By **MARIA AKSYONOVA**

With each passing year, Ukrainians spend millions of hryvnias more on special wedding services offered by civilian registry offices, known commonly by the Russian acronym "ZAGS," which stands for "registration of acts of civilian status."

A recent report issued by the Justice Ministry said that state coffers are growing every year as new couples opt for more than just marriage certificates when they decide to tie the knot.

Experts say the tendency will continue as personal incomes rise. The marriage boom in 2007 can also be explained by generational demographics and superstitions, according to experts.

Higher incomes, better demographics

Iryna Kurylo, the head of the population department of the Kyiv Institute of Demography and Social Research (KIDSR), said that the tendency of paying more for special wedding services is attributable to higher standards of living and growing personal incomes.

Also, the number of children in the 20-25 age group (the most marriage-bound group) is proportionately higher today because of an incentive that the state first offered in 1980 in the form of

yearlong maternity leaves and baby bonus payments.

Prior to that, new mothers were allowed to take only a few months' leave after the birth of their children.

She said that the 2007 boom in marriages is also in part due to 2008 being a leap year, which a large part of Ukrainian society still considers taboo for holding weddings.

"Normally, the number of marriages jumps during pre-leap-year years and falls considerably during leap years with gradual growth in the following years," said KIDSR's Lyudmyla Slyusar.

The statistics collected by KIDSR confirm the leap-year fear.

The year 2000 was a leap year and less than 275,000 marriages were registered. In 2001 and 2002, that figure grew to nearly 320,000 marriages annually and jumped in 2003 – the year before the 2004 leap year – to more than 370,000. In 2004, the number of marriages fell again to less than 280,000 and then picked back up to more than 330,000 weddings in 2005.

The first six months of this year saw slightly more than 130,000 marriages.

Nevertheless, regardless of the leap-year fears, Slyusar said that the amount of revenues collected by the country's ZAGS for special wedding services will continue to grow.



A young Kyiv couple gets married at a state ZAGS service. (Courtesy photo)

Standard and special weddings

The funds typically collected by ZAGS include those for holding standard wedding ceremonies, registering marriages outside registry offices, engagement ceremonies and the registry of weddings on official holidays and weekends.

However, Justice Minister Oleksandr Lavrynovych said that in the first

six months of 2007, the country's ZAGS collected Hr 16.7 million (more than \$3.3 million) in special services alone compared with the Hr 12.3 million (nearly \$2.5 million) collected for such services in the same period last year.

For comparison, Ukraine's 764 civilian registry offices, which are subordi-

nated to the Justice, and which also record divorces, births, deaths and changes in name, collected more than Hr 1.4 million (\$280,000) for these services since the start of this year – far less than the amount collected for special wedding services.

see **WEDDING**, page 14

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Kyiv unveils plans for massive metro expansion

METRO, continued from page 3

Altogether, the proposed plans would increase the number of metro stations from 45 to nearly double that number by the 2030s, lengthening all three of the preexisting lines and adding two new lines.

Kyiv Metropolitan is working particularly hard to put the fourth line, the Podilsko-Vygyrivska line, into operation over the next five years. This project is unquestionably the most ambitious and costly of the projects, consisting of 12 new stations and necessitating the construction of a bridge that runs across Turkhaniv Island and the Dnipro River. The estimated cost of the construction project is \$1.06-1.12 billion.

This line will connect the vicinity near Kyiv's main international railway station, Vokzalna, with the neighborhood of Troyeshchina on the city's right bank.

In addition to construction of the new line, plans also call for extending the Kurenivsko-Chervonoarmiyska line by four stations to the national exhibition center in Kyiv's southwestern districts of Holosiyiv-Teremky, to finish construction of the Lvivska Brama station, and build a second exit for the Vokzalna station. These projects will cost \$420 million, \$49 million and \$68 million, respectively.

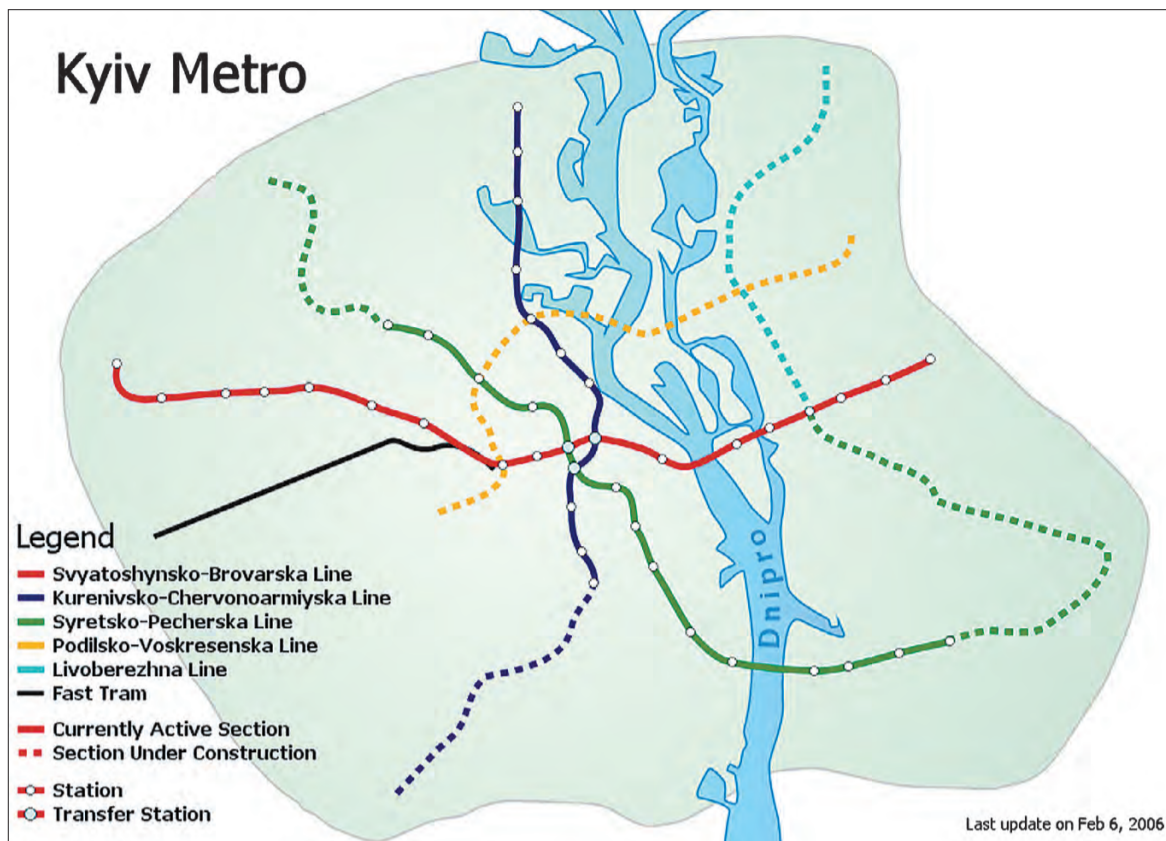
The line will include transfer stations at Vokzalna, Dorohozhychi, Tarasa Shevchenka, and another with a station on the Livoberezhna line that has yet to be built.

Kyiv Metropolitan is also working on the addition of a fifth line, the Livoberezhna line, to be finished sometime after 2020. This line will run down the right bank.

To accommodate these new expansions, Kyiv Metropolitan plans to launch over 600 new metro wagons by 2012, costing another \$1.2-1.3 billion.

The metro expansions plans are part of a number of measures that are being taken to update the city's infrastructure and transport system in time for the European games, which are expected to bring thousands of tourists to Kyiv.

According to Miroshnikov, the funds for the projects can be gathered from the



city and state budgets. He added that the state budget has already provided over \$221 million for projects that are being undertaken this year.

In addition, on Aug. 17, Kyiv Metropolitan received a 40-million-euro loan from the European Bank for

Metropolitan can realistically count on city and state budgets to provide such a sum remains to be seen.

Anatoly Golubchenko, first deputy head of the Kyiv city administration, told journalists July 30 that the city would need nearly \$7.6 billion to put

tion, the construction of road junctions and bridges, acquisition of new trains, as well as improving road safety.

Golubchenko said that of that sum, \$1-1.2 billion can be allotted from Kyiv's city budget, while a similar sum can be drawn from investment, creating a combined total of around \$2-3 billion – or just barely reaching the amount needed to finish the proposed metro expansion plans.

"The question of where the remaining 20 billion hryvnias [\$4 billion] will be drawn remains unclear," the first vice mayor added.

The projects could also be hampered by legal battles, as they have been in the past.

Just last July, courts blocked several of the aforementioned projects due to procedural violations, as well as claims that Kyivmetrobud was given the right to construction projects without holding a lawful tender and allowing competition.

KYIV WILL NEED TO INVEST NEARLY \$7.6 BILLION TO PUT
THE CAPITAL'S TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE IN
ORDER FOR THE 2012 GAMES.

– Anatoly Golubchenko,
First deputy head of the Kyiv city administration

Reconstruction and Development, which will finance up to 15 new metro trains for the Syretska-Pecherska line.

However, whether or not Kyiv

Kyiv's transportation infrastructure in order for the 2012 games.

His estimates include the cost of metro development, surface transporta-

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Journalist scandal erupts at Channel 5



Ihor Slissarenko. (Vitaliy Pavlenko)

By NAZAR KUDREVSKY

A scandal over freedom of speech is brewing at Ukraine's Channel 5 (5 Kanal), which earned a reputation for objective reporting during the Orange Revolution of 2004.

At the center of the scandal is the would-be resignation of a controversial journalist, news commentator Ihor Slissarenko.

According to news reports, Slissarenko wrote a letter offering to resign at his own will and alleged he had been pressured by the channel's manage-

ment in response to criticism over his reporting. Citing sources at Channel 5, Intenet news site *Ukrainska Pravda* reported that the criticism originated from the administration of President Viktor Yushchenko. The Presidential Administration has denied the allegations.

Nevertheless, the case has taken on political overtones, as the Party of Regions of Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich has accused the Presidential Administration of cracking down on freedom of speech by allegedly masterminding the ouster of Slissarenko.

In an 11 a.m. Channel 5 news broadcast on Sept. 1, Slissarenko cited a UNIAN news agency report saying Yushchenko's children would attend Kyiv's Pechersk International School. In the report, he also said that the presidential family would have to pay "not little" for tuitions, pointing out that the cost would run \$12,000 a year per child.

Slissarenko declined to provide comment to the *Post* regarding the situation. Slissarenko cited as his reason litigation that he and the parent company of the *Post* had been tangled up in before. The litigation was sparked by articles that pointed to his role in a university and publication that have been accused by Jewish groups and the Anti-Defamation League of spreading anti-Semitic views. Slissarenko told the Institute of Mass Information, a media watchdog, that Channel 5's management suggested he write an application to resign from the channel of his own will.

Head of the Presidential Secretariat Viktor Baloha said the secretariat itself, and personally Viktor Yushchenko, were not connected to the situation surrounding Slissarenko.

Channel 5 chief editor Oleksandr Narodetsky told the *Post* in a telephone interview that the channel's "management has a low level of trust toward him [Slissarenko]."

He said the trust was lost not only due to the tuition report, but as a result of other incidents of unbalanced reporting by Slissarenko, as well as a range of other reasons, which forced the channel's management to come to its conclusion regarding Slissarenko, said Narodetsky.

As to whether Slissarenko was pressured by the channel, Narodetsky said: "It is not pressure, it is the conclusion that the management made."

"I informed him [Slissarenko] about the catastrophic decrease of trust on the part of management toward him. He [Slissarenko] said that meant that he needed to write an application for resignation. I told him that he could do that. That's all."

Narodetsky said that the flaws in Slissarenko's work accumulated over time, leading to Channel 5's conclusion.

"We are not talking about the news broadcast about the president. We are talking about a range of cases that violate journalistic standards of maintaining a balanced and unbiased coverage of events, and correctly citing and correctly referencing sources," he added.

Narodetsky emphasized that the entire situation "is not about the fact that he [Slissarenko] reported [about the cost of tuition], but about how he did it."

He said that Slissarenko cut short the UNIAN news agency's information about the tuition, and added information from other sources without referencing those sources. Information regarding tuition at the Pechersk International School is available on the school's website.

Channel 5's editorial board met on Sept. 4 to discuss the situation surrounding Slissarenko. According to Channel 5, Slissarenko was invited to the meeting, but he didn't show up. Channel 5 said that the editorial board recommended that the channel's man-

agement not satisfy Slissarenko's application to resign, but to express their dissatisfaction with him for violating certain clauses of the channel's editorial policy.

The board said that in the Sept. 1 news broadcast, Slissarenko provided only a part of the information that was available without referencing sources, incorrectly cited information from a news agency and with bias.

It also said that it had asked Slissarenko to meet with the channel's management and the board itself to finally settle the matter. In addition, the editorial board said that it appealed to political parties and politicians not to speculate with the issue surrounding Slissarenko.

Slissarenko had worked at Channel 5 since April 2004. In the past, he has also served as vice president at Kyiv's Interregional Academy of Personnel Management, and as an editor of the school's publication, *Personnel*. Both have been accused of spreading anti-Semitic views by the ADL. In a 2002 interview with the *Post*, Slissarenko denied such allegations. He said that neither he, nor the leadership of the academy are anti-Semitic, rather, he and some academy leaders openly opposed what he described as unfair, aggressive and expansionist Zionist-Israeli policies in the Middle East.

Slissarenko served as a news anchor on 1+1, one of Ukraine's top two television channels, but told the *Post* in 2002 that he was fired from his position at 1+1 due to his ties with the academy and its publications.

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ON THE MOVE



Crystal Klimavicz has been appointed managing partner for the newly formed Family Law Group. Working closely with a team of lawyers and legal staff, she will focus on public relations, oversee office logistical matters and meet with prospective clients. The law practice will cover all family law-related matters, including but not limited to divorce, annulment, patrimony, child custody and child support. Prior to joining FLG, Crystal was appointed president of IWCK, the International Women's Club in Kyiv, for 2007-2008. Her experience includes more than 15 years of business development and sales, specializing in personal and professional development training. She holds a communications degree from the University of Maine, and master's degree from Mercer University in Atlanta, Georgia.



Kateryna Soroka has been appointed junior associate for the Finance & Projects Group of DLA Piper in Kyiv, a global legal services organization. She has more than three years of legal experience in such spheres of law as banking and finance, corporate law and securities, and mergers and acquisitions. Soroka joined DLA Piper from the Spenser & Kauffmann law firm. Previously, she worked for the Shevchenko, Didkovskiy & Partners law firm. Prior to this, for two years she was a legal advisor at International Solomon University. Soroka graduated from the law faculty of International Solomon University in 2005 with a master's degree in law and received a diploma with honors.



Ekaterina Boyko has been appointed operations director for Mimoza Mobile Spa. She will be involved in developing and implementing management systems to better serve Mimoza Mobile Spa clients. Mimoza Mobile Spa is a rapidly growing healthcare and beauty company that provides massages, body and face treatments, and hand and foot treatments. Mimoza Mobile Spa also organizes spa parties, provides corporate massage services and develops wellness programs for its clients. Prior to joining the company, Boyko worked for the Kozyrna Karta group of restaurants in the capacity of administrative director. She has a degree in financial control from Odessa State Economic University.



Peter Rasokha has been promoted to chairman of the board for VAB Bank, which has been operating in Ukraine since 1992. Prior to his appointment, Rasokha worked for VAB Bank as deputy chairman of the board and recently became VAB Bank's external consultant for business processes reorganization and finance product distribution network issues. Rasokha has more than 17 years of working experience in the financial field. Previously, he obtained supervisory positions at Sotiabank in Canada. He also worked for GE Capital Bank and Citibank in the Czech Republic. Rasokha graduated from McMaster University, Canada.

On the Move is prepared by the Kyiv Post editorial staff. The Kyiv Post does not accept payment for news items and photographs included in this section. Send news via e-mail to pastukhova@kppublications.com, or contact Alina Pastukhova at 496-4563.

Foxtrot's tender winners



Aleksiy Pavlenko, executive director of Foxtrot (right), Sergiy Karas, head of the company's marketing and sales department (left), and other Foxtrot top executives at a press-conference Sept. 3, where they announced the results of a competition for the company's choice of partners in the sphere of consumer crediting among credit and financial establishments. (Oleksiy Boyko)

Ukrainian IT market structurization



Oleg Krystyuk, general director of K-Trade, together with other K-Trade representatives at a press conference Aug.30, revealed the results of the company's activity in the first half of 2007, its future plans, its vision of the Ukrainian IT market, its changing dynamics, and the reorganizational business processes of its main players. (Courtesy photo)

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President: Rada session not legitimate

RADA, continued from page 3

Ukraine-People's Self-Defense bloc. Legislators were quick to pass the measure despite admitting its obvious flaws, arguing that the Constitutional Court would eventually fix any shortcomings.

Legislators said that they may return to the Rada before elections, to consider issues such as the 2008 state budget. Analysts said reopening the parliament could provide the coalition with a pulpit to bolster support ahead of elections.

They also said Yushchenko is unlikely to forcefully shut down the Rada, as doing so could spark protests backing the coalition and complicate election preparations.

Cabinet ignores president

Meanwhile, Yushchenko convened a meeting of the National Security and Defense Council on Sept. 4 that was ignored by Yanukovich, who spent that day in Luhansk Region. After the meeting, Yushchenko announced that the council recommends dismissing Transport and Communications Mini-

ster Mykola Rudkovsky and Minister of Emergency Situations Nestor Shufrych.

Last week, Yushchenko called for a criminal investigation into the role of the Minister of Internal Affairs Vasyl Tsushko in the tense standoff that occurred between police and the state guard service at the Prosecutor General's Office in May. Yanukovich has indicated that he would not abide by the recommendations and his party referred to the dismissal demands as "political repressions."

Race for referenda

At a rally in Kyiv on Sept. 1, opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko was the first to sign a petition to initiate a referendum on constitutional reforms, including whether the country should be a parliamentary-presidential or presidential-parliamentary republic. Earlier, Tymoshenko had hoped to hold a referendum on constitutional issues simultaneously with the Sept. 30 vote. At the weekend rally, she said that the referendum would be held soon after elections.

On Sept. 5, the Party of Regions announced that it was preparing a refer-

endum of its own on three issues: granting Russian official status as a second state language, Ukraine's neutrality in terms of transnational military blocs and support for the direct elections of the heads of regional and district administrations (that are currently appointed by the president).

Boris Kolesnikov, campaign chief for the Regions, said the first steps toward collecting the necessary 300 signatures for initiating a referendum would begin on Sept. 6 and last two months.

"We plan to collect no less than 9 million," he said.

Rada election campaign tainted with first incidents of violence

WATCH, continued from page 3

The incidents are localized and not systemic in nature," said CVU press secretary Oleksandr Chernenko.

Criminal interference

The CVU has established several instances of criminal intervention in the electoral process.

"As in past election campaigns, [the violations] are incidents of interference and damaging of campaign materials," the CVU explained in its weekly monitoring report.

Chernenko said that vandalizing political advertising is currently the most common violation. The elections watchdog noted that dozens of bill-

boards for Byut and the Our Ukraine-People's Self-Defense bloc backing President Viktor Yushchenko, have been destroyed in Kherson and Kharkiv regions. There voters supported Yanukovich's Regions party in the last elections.

Chernenko said that the "high level of politicization" of the Central Election Commission (CEC) is another major issue and the chief vote-counting body "has passed contradictory resolutions." Staffing the country's 33,000 polling stations also remains a problem.

Electoral law provides for administrative and criminal liability for election violations, ranging from small fines to prison sentences of 12 years.

Falsification fears

"There is no reason to expect violations intended to directly distort election results at the same level of falsifications as in 2004," said electoral law expert

"GLOBAL FALSIFICATION IS PRACTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE."

— Oleksandr Chernenko, CVU

Serhiy Kalchenko, attorney at the Kyiv-based Moor & Krosnodovych law firm. "The 'purity' of the election process can be guaranteed if parties and their official

observers use all the legal opportunities at their disposal."

Kalchenko said that the parties who did not win seats in the Rada last year would be particularly vigilant in monitoring election violations, and that the greatest threat to the election process is in the political, not legal, field.

"If certain political forces decide to do so, they can sabotage select election procedures. This pertains especially to the 'parliamentary' parties that have the exclusive right to form [225] district election commissions and will also staff polling station commissions. The functioning of these commissions can be blocked by depriving them of quorums or by simply not voting."

Post-election legal challenges

Chernenko said that three or four exit polls can be expected on Election Day, in addition to those being planned by the political parties and blocs. Chernenko said that depending on exit poll results, some parties or electoral blocs are likely to challenge official returns results in the courts, particularly those close to the 3 percent threshold.

He said that falsification on election day is still a threat, as it has been in the past, but that "global falsification is practically impossible because parties will check and balance each other in controlling the process."

Створено ТОВ "ЕСКО - Біомаса" (ТОВ ЕСКО-Б)

Проект Європейського Союзу в рамках Програми Тасіс "Підтримка та розвиток відновлюваних джерел енергії (біомаса) - Україна", який впроваджується у співпраці з Національним Агентством України з питань забезпечення ефективного використання енергетичних ресурсів (НАЕР) та Делегацією Європейського Комісії (ЕСД), повідомляє, що акціонери-засновники ТОВ "ЕСКО - Біомаса" (ТОВ ЕСКО-Б) підписали Установчі документи.

Заснування ТОВ ЕСКО-Б в біомасовому енергетичному секторі було підтримано як Європейською Комісією в рамках сервісного Контракту 2005/100-604, так і НАЕР, проектним Партнером як представником Уряду України. ЕСКО-Б сформовано та починає діяльність як незалежне Товариство з обмеженою відповідальністю, резидент України, що повністю належить акціонерам-засновникам, переліченим нижче, які є приватними компаніями:

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Структура бізнесу, що починає свою діяльність, відповідає структурі енергосервісних компаній (ЕСКО), поширених у Західній, Центральній та Східній Європі та Північній Америці. ЕСКО-Б надаватиме послуги з постачання чи заощадження енергії замовникам шляхом впровадження за власні кошти чи кошти третіх сторін капітальних інвестицій у енергетичне обладнання на об'єктах замовників для зменшення витрат на енергію чи її споживання. Замовники повертатимуть ЕСКО-Б кошти з економії своїх витрат на енергію.

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Banking

Pravex Bank has been assigned Long-term Issuer Default B-, Short-term Issuer Default B and Individual D/E and National Long-term BBB-(ukr) ratings by the Fitch rating agency, Kyiv-based investment bank Dragon Capital reported. The news comes ahead of Pravex's debut \$100 million Eurobond placement, and its ratings match those assigned to its larger domestic peers.

Forum Bank has borrowed a total of \$53 million through one-year loans from Cargill Financial Services Int. at interest rates of 8.6-9.6%, Dragon Capital reported. The bank has also received a 10-year 50-million-euro line of credit from West LB. The announced borrowings are in line with Forum's plans to attract up to \$300 million of foreign debt in 2007 to fund continued growth in retail and corporate lending.

UniCredit Bank announced that it has completed the process of merging its Ukrainian arm, UniCredit Bank Ukraine, and HVB Bank, where UniCredit is a major shareholder, Kyiv-based investment bank Concorde Capital reported. Following completion of the acquisition of Ukrsofsbank, UniCredit will integrate it into the new UniCredit/HVB Bank structure. Ukrsofsbank intends to focus on retail, while UniCredit Bank Ukraine will focus primarily on corporate business.

Rodovid Bank has launched seven new full-service branches across Ukraine, bringing its network to 101 branches and 254 credit-scoring platforms, Dragon Capital reported. The new branches were opened in Donetsk, Ivano-Frankivsk, Zakarpattya, Kyiv, Poltava, Dnipropetrovsk and Vinnytsya regions. By the end of July, the bank reported an 87% increase in assets year-to-date to \$1.3 billion, and reported end-July net income of \$5.3 million, up 140% year-over-year.

Nadra Bank has announced plans to launch 80 new banking outlets across Ukraine, bringing its network to 717 branches and outlets by 2008, according to Dragon Capital. The news means that in the first seven months of 2007, Nadra boosted retail lending by 50% year-to-date to nearly \$1.14 billion (or 54% of its total customer loan portfolio), while its gross corporate lending was up 46% year-to-date to \$986 million.

Consumer Goods

Konti Economy and Finance Director Dmitry Kolesnik told the weekly *InvestGazeta* that Konti, Ukraine's second largest confectioner with a 10.6% share of the market, is planning to invest \$100 million into development in 2008-2009, Concorde Capital reported. He said Konti planned to increase its share of the Ukrainian market to 15% and expand its presence in Russia to 5% (from 1.9% as of the end of 2006).

Economy

The State Property Fund (SPF) in the first eight months of this year transferred Hr 1.6 billion (\$320 million) of privatization revenues, or 15.4% of the annual target, to the state budget, Dragon Capital reported. In particular, the SPF sold stakes in several medium-sized enterprises, including 96.7% of pipe producer Nikopol Southern Pipe Plant for Hr 352 million, 76% of Luhanskteplovoz, Ukraine's monopoly producer of main-line locomotives, for Hr 292 million, and 38.14% of limestone producer Komсомolsk Mining for Hr 110 million.

Machine Building

Zaporizhtransformator, the CIS' largest producer of industrial power transformers, reported that it has signed two contracts with the state-run Uzbekistan company Uzbekenergo to supply it with transformers and single-phase oil reactors, Concorde Capital reported. The contracts will be worth a combined \$13 million.

see BUSINESS BRIEFS, page 9

Nalyvaichenko: poisoning case to be cracked soon



The photograph on the left depicts how then-presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko looked before his poisoning ahead of the 2004 presidential elections. The photograph in the center shows his appearance soon after the poisoning. On the right is a recent photograph of President Yushchenko. (Dima Gavrish, Pavlo Terekhov, Presidential Press Service)

SBU, continued from page 1

the dioxin used to poison Yushchenko was of Russian origin. Berezovsky, who claims to have inside information on the polonium poisoning of ex-KGB operative-turned Kremlin critic Aleksandr Litvinenko, said that he knows many facts concerning the Yushchenko poisoning. He said that he would make them public if Yushchenko lacks the will to do so.

Sources said the investigation has stalled because the Russian laboratory had refused requests to provide dioxin samples. By July of this year, the only other labs in the world that produce the dioxin allegedly used in the poisoning, namely labs in the US, UK and Canada, had fulfilled the PGO's request. On July 6, PGO chief Oleksandr Medvedko said that Russia had ignored it.

The PGO, which is responsible for collecting evidence that is used by state prosecutors in criminal court proceedings, needs the dioxin samples to conduct a comparative forensics examination.

Victim's interest?

Speaking on Ukraine's Inter television channel in July, Yushchenko said that the dioxin investigation was complete and that "now there are a few bastards that need to be caught and brought before the law."

The president claims he first felt the symptoms of the poisoning after dinner on Sept. 5 with fellow political ally and businessman David Zhvania, then-SBU head Ihor Smeshko and his first deputy Volodymyr Satsiuk.

The late-night dinner was hosted by Satsiuk at his dacha outside of Kyiv.

Satsiuk, reportedly a suspect, fled to Russia soon after the Orange Revolution propelled Yushchenko to the presidency, as did his assistant, reportedly a suspect in the case. Both have repeatedly denied any role in the poisoning.

Satsiuk has said that boiled crayfish, Ukrainian cuisine, Central Asian rice stew called plov and desserts were served with beer, horilka (vodka) and cognac over the course of the dinner, which lasted for some four hours and ended at around 2 o'clock in the morning.

Yushchenko said that he could not fall asleep upon returning home due to a migraine headache and pain in his spine. His health did not improve over the course of the next week, and by Sept. 11 he was being treated in the Rudolfinerhaus clinic in Vienna.

As speculation mounted concerning the cause of Yushchenko's illness, pressure mounted on the candidate's campaign and the Austrian clinic to make a statement.

In the weeks that followed, Ukrainian political rhetoric stooped to its lowest levels as political opponents and media blamed oak-root moonshine, bad sushi, herpes and botox for Yushchenko's sudden illness.

A media war followed concerning the clinic, with Yushchenko's campaign and parliamentary investigating committee issuing conflicting statements.

Yushchenko's face grew increasingly pockmarked by chloracne and by mid-December international medical opinions converged that dioxin had indeed found its way into Yushchenko's body.

Meanwhile, former SBU chief Ihor Smeshko has insisted that neither he,

nor "anyone who worked for the SBU in the autumn of 2004 is responsible for Yushchenko's worsening health."

Smeshko has said that it is a mistake to consider the Satsiuk dacha theory as the only one in the investigation, particularly because of the victim's vested interest in the case, as well as that of his entourage. Zhvania has also expressed doubts about the dacha-poisoning theory.

Missing middleman

Regarding the investigation into the 2000 murder of anti-Kuchma journalist Georgiy Gongadze, Nalyvaichenko said that it is not "hanging." He said that the PGO, led by prosecutors viewed as loyal to Yushchenko's archrival, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, is making progress.

"Judging from the character of the operations the PGO is asking us [the SBU] to conduct, then this problem can be solved," he said.

Three of four men accused of carrying out the journalist's killing are currently on trial. The trial began in Kyiv in December 2005.

The fourth man wanted in the case – former police officer Oleksiy Pukach – fled the country during the Orange Revolution. Pukach is widely considered to be the link between the killers and those who organized and ordered Gongadze's murder.

Another link in the chain of responsibility – former Interior Minister Yuriy Kravchenko – was found shot and dead shortly after the Orange Revolution. Voices similar to Kravchenko's and that of former President Leonid Kuchma are heard discussing Gongadze's fate in the so-called Melnychenko recordings.

Veteran criminal investigative journalist Stanislav Rechytsky was less optimistic that the investigation into who organized and ordered Gongadze's killing would be resolved soon. He said that he was asked to come in for questioning in connection with his reporting on the case.

"The investigating teams have changed many times over," he said.

"If I can find two of Pukach's buildings and locate his secretary – and the investigators cannot – that means the investigation is not moving forward. They have not even questioned the secretary. They do not know how Pukach left the country – by car, train or plane. The investigation is not focusing on factual evidence," said Rechytsky.

He said that the accused men in the Gongadze trial are currently undergoing psychological testing and that the court hearings will extend beyond the Sept. 30 elections, when the three former police employees – reportedly the driver and the muscle used to initially kidnap Gongadze – would likely be handed minimum sentences.

Timing and mistakes

When asked about the timing of the cases' solutions and the Sept. 30 elections, Nalyvaichenko said that SBU officials are not running for parliament and the cases are in no way connected to the vote.

Nalyvaichenko also responded to concerns about Yushchenko's early 2005 statement that the Gongadze case would be solved within a month.

"I can only say sorry for those who informed the president. Top government officials should not lie to citizens, particularly the president."

Privat moves to boost position on ferroalloy market

PRIVAT, continued from page 1

Before Privat's arrival into the bidding process, competition between Pallin-ghurst and Territory Resources had already been fierce. Both companies are Australian mining companies. Consolidated Minerals churned out some 888,000 tons of manganese last year, equivalent to 10 percent of high-grade world production. Skyrocketing demand for this mineral has caused prices to surge this year.

Through ownership over vast ore mines and ferroalloy plants in Ukraine (as well as abroad), the Privat group already has a strong position on the ferroalloy market. Ukraine has one of the world's largest reserves of ore used in the ferroalloy and steel production business.

Market analysts said Privat's acquisition of Consolidated Minerals could yield them control of about 20 percent of the world ferroalloy market.

Belize-registered Palmary Enterprises is one of many offshore vehicles through which the Privat group controls billions of dollars of assets in Ukraine and abroad. In addition to owning Ukraine's largest privately-owned bank, Privat-Bank, Kolomoisky and Bogolyubov own a broad portfolio of assets in metallurgy, ferroalloy production, ore mining, telecoms, media and oil production.

Ukraine's *Kommersant* business daily reported on Sept. 1 that Privat had teamed up with Territory Resources, an Australian ore producer, against Pallin-ghurst, a London-based natural resources investment fund.

According to the *FT*, Territory's bid is backed by commodity traders Noble Group and DECOMetal and investment bank Lehman Brothers.

In addition to having blocking to minority interests in three ferroalloy plants in Ukraine, Privat reportedly has ownership interests in US-based Hi-

ghlanders Alloys, Russia's Alapayevskiy metallurgical factory, Romania's Tulcha factory, the Zestafonskiy ferroalloy factory in Georgia and this Caucasus country's largest producer of manganese, Chiaturmarganets.

Market analysts said Privat's interest in Consolidated Minerals lies in its ability to supply manganese to its American ferroalloy plant, Highlanders Alloys.

The gold rush

Like Ukraine's other leading financial industrial groups, Privat has in recent years engaged in an aggressive expansion strategy to acquire assets outside Ukrainian turf after having snapped up the most prized enterprises on home turf years earlier. During the last several years, PrivatBank has acquired Paritate Banka in Latvia, a Moscow bank, Moskomprivatbank, and 75 percent of Taobank in Georgia.

Last week, it was announced that

Kolomoisky paid \$110 million for a 3 percent stake in Central European Media Enterprises (CME), the media empire of Ronald S. Lauder, heir to the Estee Lauder fortune. CME owns interests in many television channels in Central Europe, including one of Ukraine's top two channels, 1+1.

System Capital Management, the holding for Ukraine's richest tycoon, Rinat Akhmetov, has recently acquired Italy's Ferriera Valsider steel factory, which produces metal products for the automobile and machine-building industries. The diversified holding is seeking out other acquisitions outside Ukraine.

Industrial Union of Donbass (ISD Group), controlled by Serhiy Taruta and Vitaly Haiduk, acquired a 25 percent interest in a relatively small US steel this year. Years earlier, the group acquired steel mills in Poland and Hungary and is currently building a new facility in Russia.

Ownership in Studio 1+1 channel reshuffled



Ukrainian billionaire Igor Kolomoisky has long sought to gain an interest in Ukraine's number two television channel, 1+1. He settled for a stake in CME instead. (UNIAN)

CME, continued from page 1

"With its existing 18 percent indirect ownership, CME now has secured control over the Studio 1+1 broadcasting licenses," according to the statement.

Litigation slowdown

Fuchsman said he has no other business interests in Ukraine besides Studio 1+1 and a movie theater complex in Odessa. In the past year-and-a-half, Kolomoisky had tried to legalize a takeover of Studio 1+1 through court proceedings, but eventually lost key court decisions.

Fuchsman said his business interests and Kolomoisky's do not overlap and noted that "Kolomoisky has a reputation of being a successful businessman who is very competent in his affairs."

Kolomoisky has been seeking control of Studio 1+1 since 2005. He claimed that he had concluded an oral deal for 40 percent in the television channel for \$100 million with Rodniansky and Fuchsman.

"Incidentally, it was CME that froze the deal... Kolomoisky filed a claim with courts in response," reported Kyiv-based media watchdog *Telekritika*.

"Kolomoisky will be the only Ukrainian on the [CME] board," explained CME spokesperson Romana Tomasova.

She said that CME's management "decided that to strengthen our position in Ukraine and pursue new investment opportunities, we need a board member with direct experience in the Ukrainian market. Kolomoisky is more than a passive investor in CME. He will

not have an executive role, but will play an active role in helping to determine our Ukraine strategy. He will provide significant regional knowledge."

Fuchsman said that as a member of the CME board of directors, Kolomoisky will not exercise operational control over Studio 1+1 and that the CME Vice President, Marina Williams, is responsible for the management of the US company's media projects in FSU countries.

Too late for elections

The 43-year-old Kolomoisky was estimated to be worth \$3.82 billion last year and placed third in *Korrespondent* magazine's annual 50 richest Ukrainians rating for the second year running.

Korrespondent, a publication of KP Media, which publishes the *Post*, reported in its May rating that the Dnipropetrovsk native's wealth increased by \$1 billion in 2005-2006. With partners, he controls a diversified business empire with assets in banking, energy, ferroalloys and hydrocarbons.

In terms of media interests, the Kolomoisky-led Privat business group is known more for its co-ownership in the *Komsomolskaya Pravda* national newspaper franchise.

"Privat TV, also known as 9 Kanal, has been around for more than 10 years," said Otar Dovzhenko, deputy editor of *Telekritika* magazine. He said that Kolomoisky does not manage the Privat group's media assets directly and that Studio 1+1 editorial policy is unlikely to undergo any changes ahead of the Sept. 30 vote.

"There simply is too little time left," said Dovzhenko.

"If anything, at issue is the media resource that will be brought to the table for the next presidential elections," said Dovzhenko, whose magazine forms part of the media holding organized by Oleksandr Tretyakov, former first adviser to President Viktor Yushchenko.

Ukrainian media reported that Tretyakov and Kolomoisky merged some of their media interests in August when the so-called Glavred media holding was created.

The *Media Business* online newspaper reported that the holding includes two weekly and one monthly magazines, three daily and three weekly newspapers, five web portals, four local television channels and the UNIAN news agency.

Political analyst Kost Bondarenko of the Kyiv-based Gorshenin Institute of Management Issues said that major media holdings are looking more at the

2010 presidential race than at the imminent parliamentary elections.

Rinat Akhmetov, Ukraine's richest tycoon and a backer of Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, is "offering Yushchenko a union with the Party of Regions and the east."

"If Yushchenko sides with him then Yanukovich will not run. Kolomoisky and Tretyakov are offering a repeat of the 2004 scenario with the western and the central regions supporting Yushchenko against a 'Donetsk threat,'" he said.

CME bullish on Ukraine

CME co-operates 15 television networks in six Central and Eastern European countries, potentially reaching a combined population of 90 million: Croatia, the Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. In Ukraine, CME is involved in Studio 1+1, Studio 1+1 International, Kino and Citi.

With an August viewer share of below 20 percent, Studio 1+1 is the only television channel to occasionally overtake market leader Inter in the

"CME NOW HAS SECURED CONTROL OVER STUDIO 1+1 BROADCASTING LICENSES."

— CME statement

battle for ratings. Still, 1+1's numbers are more than double its nearest rivals, namely the STB, ICTV and Novy Kanal television channels, which are reportedly controlled by tycoon Viktor Pinchuk, son-in-law to former Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma.

Ukraine is CME's largest market with a population of nearly 47 million. According to CME estimates, the Ukrainian television advertising market grew by 25-30 percent in 2006 and was worth \$240-250 million.

In early August, CME CEO Michael Garin expressed disappointment in Studio 1+1's performance in the first half of 2007 when the company released its second quarter results.

"The 2007 outlook for Ukraine is expected to remain uncertain until the outcome of the parliamentary elections, scheduled for Sept. 30, is known," said Garin.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Manufacturing

Russia has agreed to replace a 24% antidumping duty on imports of Ukrainian rebar with annual quotas, Dragon Capital reported. The decision favors Arcelor Mittal Kryvyi Rih and Yenakievo Steel, both of which produce rebar (about 3,000 kt and 135 kt, respectively). The quotas will increase from 112 kt by end-2007 to 400 kt in 2009. The decision to introduce the quotas is likely related to numerous construction projects Russia needs to complete ahead of the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi.

The Ukrainian government has started antidumping proceedings against imports of Russian, Chinese and European oil and gas pipes to Ukraine, reacting to a claim filed by Interpipe, the leading domestic pipe group, Dragon Capital reported. The Ukrainian pipe market is estimated at 300 kt annually, with about 85 kt of this as imports. Interpipe sold 277 kt of pipes in Ukraine in 2006 and is likely trying to secure the domestic market against rising imports from China.

Real Estate

TKS Management announced that it is conducting a tender to hire two international companies to analyze the commercial and residential real estate market in Lviv, Concorde Capital reported. A TKS press release indicated tender participants include Colliers International, DTZ, Jones Lang LaSalle and others.

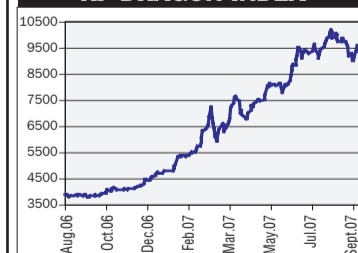
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Dragon Capital Market Watch

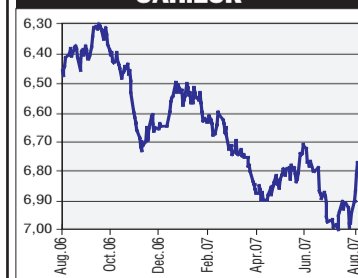
MARKET COMMENTARY

Despite a week of sluggish activity, the KP-Dragon index managed to gain a modest 0.84% w-o-w, with buyers looking for a further correction in the market and patient sellers hoping to take advantage of positive market sentiment. Below-average volumes kept many larger names out of the picture, though Zaliv Shipyard joined the week's top gainers, as positive 1H07 numbers helped boost the stock by 17%. Top losers included coke producers Avdiyivskyi Coke and Alchevskyi Coke, both of which lost 7%. Avdiyivskyi Coke joined other steel-related names Yenakievo Steel, Azovstal and Alchevsk Steel among the most heavily traded names, with Big Four GenCo Centreneko and monopoly oil & gas producer Ukrnafta also seeing large numbers of their shares change hands. Domestic producers of rebar, including Yenakievo Steel, will look to capitalize on new rebar quotas imposed by Russia in advance of the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi. The coming week will see the market continue to follow global sentiment, however, which has waned in light of continued bad news from the American sub-prime mortgage market.

KP-DRAGON INDEX



UAH:EUR



Dragon Capital Market Watch is a business feature of the Kyiv Post.

Gov't tightens up relaxed visa rules for foreigners

VISA, continued from page 1

Attorneys-At-Law, the resolution "has substantially changed the regulations on the entry and stay of foreigners who are citizens of countries with no visa requirement for Ukraine (such as Germany, Austria, Great Britain, as well as other EU member states, Switzerland, Japan and the US)."

Since 2005, when President Viktor Yushchenko took office, citizens of the above countries have been able to come to Ukraine without a visa for a maximum of 90 days, after which they only needed to step out of the country and return to receive an additional 90-day visa-free stay.

Now, says the law firm, "foreign nationals who are citizens of the aforementioned states are allowed to enter Ukraine as before without a visa but showing their valid passport, and stay in Ukraine without a visa and residence

permit for a short term. However, the overall duration of the stay must not exceed 90 calendar days per 180 calendar days from the arrival date."

In other words, citizens of wealthy countries can still visit Ukraine for 90 days without a visa, but they cannot stay here for longer consecutive periods by skipping across the border every three months.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Andriy Deshchitsya told the *Post* that the resolution was primarily aimed at preventing illegal immigration.

"First and foremost, this relates to people coming from certain Asian countries," he said.

An explanatory note on the July 11 resolution posted on the government's website also emphasizes the government's attempts to curb illegal immigration through Ukraine.

"Citizens of states from which the

largest flows of illegal migrants originate must, upon entering the country, provide documentary confirmation of their ability to finance their travel through Ukraine.

"THIS RELATES TO PEOPLE COMING FROM CERTAIN ASIAN COUNTRIES."

— Andriy Deshchitsya

This is one of the changes introduced by the government resolution of July 11."

Regarding other changes introduced by the government resolution, Deshchitsya said the rules for citizens of countries eligible for visa-free entry to Ukraine have now been clarified.

Other government officials contacted by the *Post* said the resolution has

yet to be enforced and is still being developed by the Foreign Ministry and the Border Guards.

The government resolution's emphasis on combating illegal immigration anticipates the acceptance of most of Ukraine's Western neighbors into the EU Schengen zone next year.

To soften Ukraine's feeling of isolation from its former East Bloc neighbors, Yanukovich signed agreements with the EU in June that would ease visa restrictions for his compatriots. The concessions include free visas for certain categories of Ukrainian applicants, such as students, children and retirees, and a more streamlined application process.

Canceling visa requirements for citizens of wealthy countries was an attempt by Yushchenko to increase foreign investment and improve the country's international image following the country's Orange Revolution in 2004.

Telecoms bid adieu to price wars and focus on quality instead



Anton Volodkin, marketing director of Ukrainian Radio Systems (Beeline brand) said that the mobile communication market in Ukraine has exhausted the potential of price competition and that the market is forcing the mobile phone service providers to focus on the quality and types of services they provide. (Courtesy photo)

By VOLODYMYR MASHCHENKO

In the constant struggle for more clients, Ukraine's tough-competing mobile telecommunications market has started showing signs of steadily moving away from practices of simply offering cheapest prices and tariffs towards an increased focus on the quality of services, developing better advertising strategies and preparing for the launch of third-generation (3G) communication networks.

Ukrainian mobile telecom industry insiders agree that the strategy of attracting clients mostly by way of simply reducing tariffs and prices for certain services – often without any economical justification – should be left aside. Market players are increasingly coming to understand the necessity of increasing quality and are becoming more concerned with introducing advanced technologies like the 3G communication standard, rather than waging “price wars” to entice subscribers from one another.

Regarding the introduction of the 3G standard that enables high-speed data transfer, players are concerned with the lack of transparency on the part of the government. They are concerned about the way the government calculates the cost of licenses for this standard after it granted a license for the usage of 3G communication to the country's state-owned fixed-line phone communication provider for a very high price almost two years ago.

According to Alyona Horodetska, a spokesperson for MTS, a leading player on the market with nearly 20 million customers, the recent “price wars” between mobile telecom market players can harm the entire industry, not just individual companies.

“We believe price wars should remain in the past. Because such price wars and numerous promotions to give out SIM-cards free of charge have overheated the market. But it can be

potentially dangerous for the sector,” said Horodetska, adding that clients' interests will suffer because the telecom sector requires constant investment in expanding networks, the introduction of new services and the improvement of the quality of communication, while without investments the quality of services will ultimately suffer.

“Our new marketing strategy is to move from hunting for new subscribers to retaining them, by boosting usage and offering the best possible services,” said Horodetska.

After a large re-branding campaign this summer, the Ukrainian Mobile Communication (UMC) company is now operating under the MTS brand name. UMC was the first operator to launch a mobile network in Ukraine. Today the MTS network covers 95 percent of the country's territory where 99 percent of Ukrainians live. It is 100 percent owned by Mobile TeleSystems (MTS), the largest mobile operator in Russia and the CIS.

ing on how to best enhance the quality of services and seeking ways to enhance data transmission opportunities and develop additional services such as internet access, audio-visual information and other content.

Nevertheless the major driver of the market will remain voice communications.

“The Ukrainian mobile market is one of the most competitive markets in Eastern Europe. Currently, most players on the market continue to compete by reducing prices but we believe it is time to move to competition by offering the best quality,” said Horodetska.

According to Horodetska, while SIM-card penetration in the country is at over 100 percent, the level of real mobile penetration is at about 65 percent.

“It means that practically everyone who wanted to obtain a mobile telephone today owns one,” said Horodetska. She added that many customers are still relatively new users, as the fastest growth on the market was registered in the last two years. She said the new users are gradually grow-

TOP LIST

IN THE BEGINNING, ONE OF THE MARKET PLAYERS OBTAINED A 3G LICENSE WITHOUT A CONTEST, AND NOW THE LICENSES FOR ALL OTHER PLAYERS ARE OFFERED AT A COST THAT IS NOT TRANSPARENT... KYIVSTAR HAS BEEN READY TO DEVELOP AND DEPLOY THE 3G STANDARD FOR A LONG TIME.

– Serhiy Tovstenko-Zabelin
Kyivstar GSM

The number of “starting packages” has exceeded the 100 percent barrier, meaning that the majority of population is using mobile phones. Thus the largest market players are concentrat-

ing accustomed to using their mobile phones and basic voice services are now not enough for some.

“We believe that it is time to change marketing strategies. We believe the

customers will be seeking the best quality and more services. And we aim to offer more,” said Horodetska. She said that MTS will focus on developing high-speed data transmission services and expanding available content.

Concerning the difficulties that restrain the further development of Ukraine's mobile telecom market some industry insiders point to problems with obtaining licenses for 3G telecom standard.

Third-generation mobile phone technology, which allows faster transmission of data, voice and video along networks, has been available in Asia and the West for a decade. But its launch in Ukraine has been stalled by regulators.

“The Ukrainian mobile telecom market is currently entering a new stage of rapidly growing subscriber bases, when a mobile telecom operator can enjoy numbers as high as a million people subscribing to its services in one month's time,”

said Serhiy Tovstenko-Zabelin, a spokesperson for Kyivstar GSM. “What is on the agenda for GSM-operators today is the 3G standard.”

Kyivstar is the leading company on Ukraine's mobile telecom market, with 10 years of operational experience on the market. In 2006, Kyivstar's subscriber base grew by 54 percent to 21.5 million, accounting for 44 percent of the total subscriber base in Ukraine.

Zabelin described the situation with licenses for 3G mobile communication as “problematic.”

“In the very beginning, one of the market players obtained a 3G license ‘hors concours’ (without a contest), and now the licenses for all other players are offered for a cost that is not at all transparent,” said Zabelin.

The Ukrainian government issued its first and only 3G license (for the so-called UMTS standard) to Ukrtelecom almost two years ago, the country's principle provider of fixed-line services. The move was widely considered to be an attempt to beef up the state-owned company's value ahead of its planned privatization. Two years have passed, Ukrtelecom's privatization has so far failed as has the company's plans to launch genuine 3G services.

The Cabinet of Ministers approved the auction of three additional licenses for the use of the 3G, or UMTS standard, on Aug. 1. Officials from the National Communications Regulation Commission (NCRC) said they hoped to schedule a tender for the licenses before the end of this year, but the conditions of the tender remain unknown.

Kyivstar, MTS and Astelit (the Life:) brand), which together control almost 95 percent of the market, were refused 3G licenses by the Ukrainian government last year.

Zabelin said that Kyivstar has been ready to develop the 3G standard for a long time and that the company's network is completely prepared to deploy this standard.

According to Anton Volodkin, marketing director with Ukrainian Radio Systems, another noticeable problem on the mobile telecom market today is connected with the high rate of intercon-

nection settlements between operators.

“This means that in Ukraine, when a subscriber of one operator (let's call him A) calls a subscriber of a different operator (operator B), then operator A pays too high a tariff for each minute of traffic sent to operator B,” explained Volodkin.

According to him, this situation limits opportunities for justified reduction of tariffs.

“If all market players agreed to reduce interconnection tariffs between themselves, this would lead to the reduction of tariffs for subscribers,” said Volodkin. He said that unfortunately not all mobile telecom providers are ready to agree to the measure.

Ukrainian Radio Systems (URS) is a subsidiary of Russia's Vimpelcom that operates the Beeline brand and serves about 2.7 million subscribers in Ukraine. It was launched in the country in April 2006.

Speaking about the short-term, industry insiders said that voice communication will play the leading role in terms of revenue generation and market development.

“The major growth driver for next several years will remain voice services. The average number of minutes used per month (MOU) in Ukraine is not very high compared with neighboring countries,” said Horodetska. She added that the average MOU in Ukraine currently stands at 130-140 minutes for every subscriber per month. That number can be raised to about 180-200 minutes in a relatively short period time.

According to Horodetska, in 2006 voice services generated about \$2.8 billion in revenues for Ukrainian operators. She said that MTS estimates that the voice services market will grow to \$4.2 billion by 2012.

Industry insiders said the role of additional services should not be underestimated. They said that services such as messaging, entertainment content, mobile internet and other innovations will enjoy an upturn, particularly as these additional services become simpler and easier to use for customers.

The future development of the mobile telecom market will be characterized by the gradual replacement of price competition by competition in terms of service quality and exclusive services.

“From our point of view, mobile communication market in Ukraine has exhausted the potential of price competition. From now on, the key tendencies will include development of additional services and seeking new niches,” said Volodkin of URS. He said that although he does not expect any new players to appear on Ukraine's telecom market, the “younger” players will come increase their market by aggressively marketing their services. At the same time, all of the existing players will maintain their positions so it will be difficult to significantly change the current distribution of market shares among existing forces, according to Volodkin.

“I don't think there are going to be any revolutions on this market. Everything will develop evolutionally,” said Volodkin.

WE BELIEVE PRICE WARS SHOULD REMAIN IN THE PAST. BECAUSE SUCH PRICE WARS AND NUMEROUS PROMOTIONS TO GIVE OUT SIM-CARDS FREE OF CHARGE HAVE OVERHEATED THE MARKET. BUT IT CAN BE POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS FOR THE SECTOR.

– Alyona Horodetska
MTS

3G and European standards define future of telecom in Ukraine

By VOLODYMYR MASHCHENKO

Tansu Yegen is the CEO of Astelit, Ukraine's third-largest mobile telecom provider in Ukraine that operated the life:) brand. The company launched its operations in January 2005 and invested more than \$500 million in Ukraine over the course of the next two years. As of the second quarter of 2007 life:) boasted a subscriber base of 6.3 million users.

Previously, Mr. Yegen worked as the Deputy General Manager of Microsoft Turkey and General Manager of Apple Turkey. He joined the life:) team in February 2007. During the 16 years he worked in the IT sphere, Yegen said he followed the development of telecom markets very closely. Seeing the convergence between IT and telecom, he realized that his IT experience can be valuable in the telecom sector. When he was offered to head a telecom company he viewed the opportunity as the next stage in his personal development.

In his interview with the Post, Yegen predicted that the IT and telecom sectors will merge into a joint "ITC industry" in the future, opening up immense perspectives for telecom customers.

A controlling stake of 54.8 percent of Astelit is indirectly owned by Turkish telecom giant Turkcell, which is rated among the five largest European GSM operators in terms of subscribers.

Another 45.2 percent of Astelit is owned by System Capital Management, part of the multi-billion-dollar portfolio controlled by Donetsk magnate Rinat Akhmetov.

KP: Please describe the most important trends and tendencies in Ukraine's mobile telecom sector today. What's new and what is most interesting?

TY: Currently there are a few major trends that will define the market's development in the nearest few years. The first one is the approach of the era of third-generation telecom technology (3G), enabling high-speed data transmission. We await that in 2008 (at the latest) the situation with licenses will be resolved and operators will get a chance to develop the third generation of connectivity. 3G will enable operators to provide many new services and will provide a push for the further penetration of mobile communications into all spheres

of life:) entertainment, business, traveling, information, shopping, banking, etc.

The other important notion in Ukraine is the tendency of the market's further liberalization and adoption of standards of developed European markets. Here I mean mobile number portability and introduction of 8-digit numbers. All these initiatives will provide healthy competition and new possibilities both for operators and end-users.

Moreover the market is close to saturation and pretty soon the competition between the operators will shift from pricing to innovations and value-added services.

KP: Competition in this sector is rather intense, with four major market players battling for clients. What are currently the most successful ways of attracting and keeping subscribers?

TY: Operators are currently still more focused on attracting users, as market growth is still boosting, but in a year or two the key focus will shift to customer retention. We have already understood that just offering good quality services at an attractive price is not enough if we think in strategic terms. That is why we developed a community marketing strategy that enables us to offer products targeted at special communities of users that combine special GSM offers with non-GSM benefits natural to customers' lifestyles. We believe that introducing non-GSM benefits (like free shopping in 'Lady life:') or free flights in life Platinum:) will attract more subscribers and also work to keep their loyalty in the future, because they will receive something special from us that no other operator can provide.

KP: What are the major challenges that currently exist in the mobile telecom business in Ukraine? What are the obstacles to the development of business today?

TY: I'd like to stress that our market is very challenging to work within due to high competition. But in terms of regulation and legislation the environment is quite liberal and is stimulating industry growth. Of course there are some issues (like 3G licensing) that we would like to see resolved much quicker and some issues in which we think the market needs wider governmental support



Tansu Yegen, CEO of Astelit, more commonly known by the life:) brand that the company operates, believes that in the future, there will be three major mobile phone service providers in the country. (Courtesy photo)

(for example, interconnection rates). But overall I can not name any serious obstacles at the moment.

KP: What about the dynamics of pricing? Are average costs of using mobile phones falling or growing? Can you provide any figures?

TY: As I said the market is approaching saturation and this means that price wars are becoming less and less effective and more and more costly for market players. The current prices are already quite low that is why we do not foresee drastic price reductions for two reasons – firstly, it's becoming inefficient for operators (resulting in falling ARPU – Average Revenue Per User), secondly competition is gradually shifting to the field of value-added services, loyalty programs, etc.

KP: Do you plan to expand your telecom infrastructure, introduce new approaches, perhaps pay more attention to 3G technologies?

TY: We see the future development of telecom market in Ukraine in three major directions: 3G, additional services (or VAS) and convergence.

Certainly, 3G is a huge potential area for growth in Ukraine as it brings new possibilities to offer amazingly interesting and useful value-added services at high speeds. For example, with the introduction of 3G technology in Europe, the share of VAS increased to 17 percent and will reach an estimated 26 percent by 2010. Certainly, the era of mobile TV is on the horizon. Today 3G technology in developed markets has received a second breath of life through the introduction of the upgraded version 3.5 – which is providing much more higher speeds. As a result 3G revenues in Western Europe are approaching revenues from voice services, for example.

Another important development that will take place in our country is "convergence": the merger of IT and telecom into a joint ITC sector. Those mobile operators who are able to first predict and adjust to this change will win the battle for loyal subscribers. We believe that in the future operators will be providing all kinds of telecom services: internet access, turning your phones into modems, TV sets, fixed phones, etc. For example, I personally believe that in the future, the Ukrainian family having holidays in Thailand will be able to send their happy

pictures to the televisions of their grandparents who are waiting for them at home. The future of telecom is amazing in terms of data services. In the future people will forget that they once used their phones only for voice services.

KP: What is your forecast for the development of the mobile providers market Ukraine for the nearest future? Is it possible that market shares will change or some new players will appear? What will be the situation with competition? What about prices?

TY: Although the nominal penetration has exceeded even 110 percent in reality it's around 60-70 percent due to the fact that in Ukraine there are many multiple SIM card users (around 30 percent) and also the lifecycle of the SIM-cards is quite long. That means that there is room for competition as well as battles for new users.

As for the long term, I believe that there will be three major operators in Ukraine. Definitely, there is a big possibility that telecom giants such as Vodafone or Orange will become interested in Ukraine and try to enter the local telecom market through mergers or acquisitions.


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GETTING CONNECTED

Companies listed by # of subscribers

COMPANY NAME ADDRESS E-MAIL WEB SITE	PHONE FAX	TOP EXECUTIVE	YEAR ESTABLISHED IN UKRAINE	OWNERSHIP UKRAINIAN / FOREIGN (%)	# OF FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES	SERVICES OFFERED	BRANDS	AREA COVERED	# OF SUBSCRIBERS	MAIN OFFICE	PLANS FOR FUTURE (BY THE END OF 2008)	FOREIGN LANGUAGES	REVENUES IN 2006
MTS-Ukraine 01015 Kyiv 15 Leyptsyzka press@mts.com.ua www.mts.com.ua	8(050)110-3111	Pavel Pavlovsky	1992	0 / 100	About 4,000	Voice calls, internet access, mobile TV	MTS, Jeans, Ecotel	95% of Ukraine's territory covering 99% of the population	About 20 million	Moscow, Russia	CDMA networks and high-speed Internet access in seven largest Ukrainian cities	English	\$1.49 billion
Astelit 03110 Kyiv 11-A Solomyanska reception@life.com.ua www.life.com.ua	(044)233-3131 (044)233-3056	Tansu Yegen	2005	45.2 / 54.8	More than 1,800	Mobile communication	life.), BUSINESS life, lifebox, life Platinum, Lady life.)	Territory where 91% of Ukraine's population lives	6.3 million	Kyiv, Ukraine	Development of 3G connection in Ukraine, improvements and innovations in customer service and retail spheres	English, all major Western, Central and Eastern European languages, Turkish, Arabic, Chinese, Japanese	\$87.9 million
URS (TM Beeline) 04080 Kyiv 15/15 V. Khvoyky info@beeline.ua www.beeline.ua	(044)501-0052	Sergey Mironov	2005	0 / 100	About 1,300	Telecommunications, cellular communication	Beeline	549 cities and over 10,000 other locations, over 88% of the total population	2.7 million	Moscow, Russia	WND	English, German, French	\$33.7 million
Golden Telecom 01001 Kyiv 19-A Khreshchatyk office@goldentele.com www.goldentele.com	(044)490-0090 (044)490-0070	Andriy Milinevsky	1996	0 / 100	More than 600	Intercity voice and data carrier, corporate Internet and mass market dial-up access, GSM cellular	Golden Telecom, Golden Telecom GSM, Svit Online, UNI	Kyiv and Odessa Regions, Lutsk, Lviv, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Simferopol	46,000	Moscow, Russia	WND	WND	\$81 million
Telesystems of Ukraine 04080 Kyiv 15/15 V. Khvoyky pr@people.net.ua www.people.net.ua	(044)499-7070 (044)499-7073	Vitalii Vorozhbyt	2006	100 / 0	About 750	3G mobile connection, high-speed Internet access, voice communication and multimedia applications	PEOPLEnet	Kyiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Odessa, Kharkiv, Simferopol, Donetsk, Kryviy Rih, Lviv, Zaporizhya	40,000	Kyiv, Ukraine	Providing 80 percent of the Ukrainian population with 3G services	All	No. PEOPLEnet has been operating from 2007
Kyivstar GSM 03110 Kyiv 51 Chervonozoryaniy Prosp. info@kyivstar.net www.kyivstar.net www.djuice.com.ua www.mobilych.com.ua www.starport.com.ua	(044)209-0070 (044)232-2184	Igor Litovchenko	1997	43.49 / 56.51	WND	Mobile connection	Kyivstar, Kyivstar Business, DJUICE, Mobilych	Territory of Ukraine	WND	Kyiv, Ukraine	WND	English	WND
PAN-TELECOM Group 01004 Kyiv 9/1 Bessarabska Ploshcha sales@thuraya.com.ua www.pantele.com.ua	(044)255-1655 (044)255-1661	Maksym Bezborodov	1998	100 / 0	WND	Telecommunication equipment development and production, satellite mobile communication, international and retail sales, distribution network	Iridium-Ukraine, Thuraya-Ukraine, Sattrans Navigator	Global coverage	WND	Kyiv, Ukraine	WND	English	WND
Dipol International 03680 Kyiv 13-B A. Barbyusa, office #113 dipol@voliacable.com www.dipol.com.ua	(044)223-5445 (044)412-4192	Yuriy Balyasniy	1991	WND	WND	WND	Dipol	Territory of Ukraine	WND	Kyiv, Ukraine	Research activities	WND	WND

Source: Companies, public information, Kyiv Business Directory, last year's KP and Kyiv Post staff. WND means *Would Not Disclose*. This list is not meant to be all-inclusive. The KP makes every effort to contact industry participants while compiling our Top List. If you would like to have your company included in our list, please contact leontieva@kyivpost.com.



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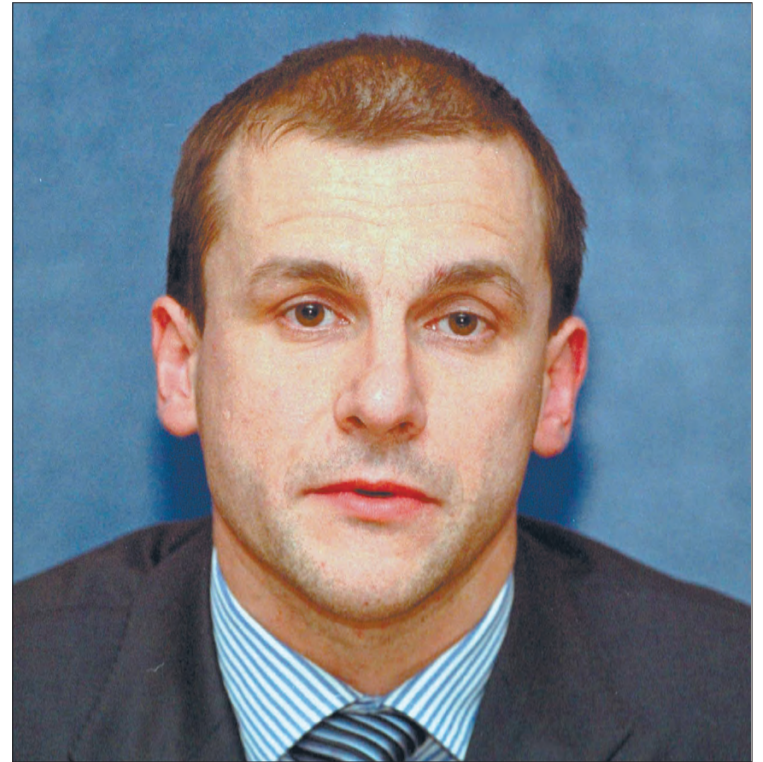
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Gov't pushed forward with plans to sell utilities amid elections



Ukrainian billionaire Kostyantyn Zhevago (left) owns a blocking stake in Odessaoblenergo, the power distribution company in Odessa Region. Zhevago and a Russian business group are expected to bid in a state tender for a stake in this company. Ukrainian-born tycoon Kostyantyn Grigorishin (right), a Russian citizen, has battled for years with Ukrainian and Russian groups for control over a handful of utilities. (File photo, UNIAN)

TENDERS, cont'd from page 1

The timing of the announcement of the tenders, as well as the particularly close relations between business and politics in Ukraine, have industry insiders concerned that the state's blocking stakes may be sold not to the highest bidder, but rather on the basis of the buyers' campaign support. Energy analysts have said foreign bidders are not expected to take part in the bidding due to time constraints and political noise.

Nevertheless, the government has decided to sell the state's blocking stakes in Odessaoblenergo, Poltavaoblenergo, Prykarpattyaoblenergo, Sumyoblenergo, Chernihivoblenergo and Lvivoblenergo. State Property Fund (SPF) chief Valentina Semenyuk announced the tender during an Aug. 30 press conference in Kyiv. Semenyuk, of the Socialist Party, is a member of Yanukovich's governing coalition, which has pressed forward with this and other privatization sales to be held around election time despite disapproval from Yushchenko's administration, which fears the sales could be less than transparent.

The idea for the share sales had been suggested as early as last year, but it gained momentum as the struggle for executive power between Yushchenko and Yanukovich shifted into high gear earlier this year.

SPF spokesperson Nina Yavorska told the *Post* that the SPF would monitor the privatization process every step of the way to make sure that it is conducted fairly.

"If we see any abnormalities in the tender process, we always have the right to step in and even suspend it," she said. Yavorska denied that the timing of the tender was chosen for political reasons.

"Privatization is an economic process, not a political one. Elections or no elections, it goes on."

According to Yavorska, the tender will be held sometime in October during the coalition-building process following snap elections on Sept. 30. According to Ukrainian legislation, state auctions must be held at least 30 days following their announcement, she said.

Of Ukraine's 27 regional power distributors, six have already been completely sold off to American and Russian companies. The state holds a blocking stake of around 25 percent in six others, and a majority stake in all but one of the rest. A blocking stake of at least 25 percent allows the owner to prevent changes to a company's charter but not manage it.

Alexander Parashchy, an analyst at Kyiv-based investment firm Concorde Capital, said the power distributors in Odessa, Poltava, Prykarpattya, Sumy, Chernihiv and Lviv regions are the most

energy efficient and best managed of those with a significant state interest. As monopoly suppliers of electricity in their regions, they are attractive to foreign and domestic investors alike, he said.

Virginia-headquartered AES Corporation, which operates more than 100 generation, and 17 distribution companies in 27 countries, paid \$90 million for two Ukrainian power distributors – Kyivoblenergo and Rivneoblenergo – in a 2001 privatization tender.

VS Energy International, a company controlled by a Russian business group, owns the other four fully privately-owned oblenergos. Ukrainian and Russian press reports have linked VS Energy to Russian Duma deputy Alexander Babakov, chairman of the right-wing Rodina party.

Ukrainian businessmen are also interested in controlling their country's regional electricity distributors.

A well-informed industry source told the *Post* that all six oblenergos in which the state holds a blocking stake are the subject of intense conflicts between shareholders, neither of whom has been able to gain control.

"They are ready to pay anything for the shares, as none of them currently has full control," the source said.

These power distributors are valued at significantly more today than the prices paid back in 2001, the source said.

Three high-profile Ukrainian tycoons – Igor Kolomoisky of the powerful Privat group, Hryhory Surkis, who is best known for owning the Dynamo Kyiv football team, and Surkis' reputed business foe Konstantin Grigorishin – are involved in a struggle for five of the energy distributors.

Surkis and Grigorishin clashed for control of the Poltava- and Prykarpattya- oblenergos in 2005, with each side's security guards facing off outside company facilities.

Privat has gone to Ukrainian and UK courts in their battle for control of the Prykarpattya-, Poltava-, Lviv-, Chernihiv- and Sumy- oblenergos.

Odessaoblenergo is the subject of a battle between VS Energy and Ukrainian billionaire Kostyantyn Zhevago. Companies from Babakov's group control a majority interest in the utility. The state and Zhevago have minority stakes.

Zhevago is running for parliament again on the ticket of opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko. Kolomoisky reportedly has associates on the ticket of Yushchenko's Our Ukraine-People's Self-Defense bloc.

In 2004, when Yushchenko and Yanukovich first faced off in elections for the presidency, the country witnessed a spate of rushed privatizations favoring well-connected tycoons.

Ukraine's flagship steel mill, Kryvorizhstal, was privatized for \$800 million – a fraction of its worth – in the run-up to voting.

The buyers were businessmen linked to outgoing President Leonid Kuchma and Yanukovich, who was serving his first term as prime minister. After rising to power through the Orange Revolution of 2004, Yushchenko and the government of then-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko had the privatization overturned through court proceedings and resold the mill for \$4.8 billion in 2005 to the world's largest steel group, Mittal Steel (today known as Arcelor Mittal).

More recently, shady privatizations have been making a comeback with this year's sell-off of Luhanskteplovoz, a monopoly producer of locomotives and trams that went to Russian buyers for half its market price in a controversial tender that was sharply criticized by Yushchenko.

It's still not clear which if any of Ukraine's tycoons will have an advantage in bidding for the oblenergos to be auctioned off this fall.

As the *Post* reported last week, there are also concerns that the sale of a large chemical plant, Odessa Portside Plant, also scheduled during the election process, could fall short of being transparent.

Rising incomes of Ukrainians give rise to more lavish weddings

WEDDING, cont'd from page 3

In the country's largest cities, revenues from special ZAGS service have outpaced those collected from standard services by around 1,000 percent.

Special wedding services cost Ukrainians a total of Hr 18.9 million (nearly \$3.8 million) in 2004, Hr 23.7 million (\$4.7 million) in 2005 and Hr 21.5 million (\$4.3 million) in 2006.

In terms of the country's regions, Kherson Region leads the country in collections for special services: The ZAGS in that region have taken in more than half a million hryvnias (\$100,000) since the beginning of the year – 23 times more than for standard services.

Special ZAGS services are also popular in Volyn, Zaporizhzhya and Odessa

regions, which contributed Hr 2.5 million (\$500,000) to the state budget over the same period.

Special ZAGS services are least popular in the central Vinnytsya, Mykolayiv and Cherkassy regions.

The director of the central ZAGS in Kyiv city, Natalya Naberezhna, said that the special wedding services are the sources of greatest revenues for ZAGS. She said that the cost of weddings is generally growing, although prices charged by the ZAGS have remained stable.

"Most of the money that couples spend on their weddings is not connected with the civilian registry offices, but include expenses for a restaurant and other traditional wedding items," she said.

"For example, one hour's rental of a limousine costs \$100, while the prices

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for special services by our marriage registration department are quite meager."

According to Naberezhna, the basic registration ceremony at the ZAGS costs Hr 140. Newlyweds can choose from several different scenarios, which include the traditional "stepping on the embroidered towel" and "salt and braided bread" ceremonies.

The ZAGS charges a customs duty of Hr 0.85 (around \$0.16) for the actual marriage certificate, while laminating the document costs Hr 5 (less than \$1).

The additional services offered by civilian registry offices in Kyiv include car rentals (\$35-40 per hour), and consultations on marriages with foreign citizens (Hr 26 - \$5), while a master of ceremonies will cost around Hr 140 (\$28) per hour. A wedding video can be arranged for Hr 350 (\$70) per hour.

Some civilian registry offices also offer makeup and hairdresser services, while others offer special ceremonies for weddings, including outdoor ceremonies and so-called "European" weddings.

A standard ceremony costs Hr 140. "European style" ceremonies start at Hr 300 (\$60) and include extras, like doves, balloons and candles. For outdoor ceremonies, couples can expect to pay up to Hr 1,000 (\$200).

More extreme ceremonies, like weddings in the air or underwater, have not yet gained popularity in Ukraine, though weddings in different styles proposed by some civilian registry offices include medieval weddings, 1960s-style weddings, and traditional folk weddings.

Russian extremism law curbs freedom

MOSCOW (AP) – Among the locals, retired truck driver Pyotr Gagarin says he is known as a man who does not mince his words. Now he is known around Russia as a man who called his governor “scum” and wound up accused of extremism.

“It’s all a comedy that’s being staged to rig elections,” he said. “Insult someone and suddenly you’re an extremist?”

Gagarin, 71, was due in court on Sept. 4 to defend himself against criminal charges, is the latest to be caught up in a widening net of criminal prosecutions being brought in Russia under a newly updated law on extremism.

The government maintains the legislation, first passed in 2002 and amended by parliament in July, is aimed at curbing nationalist groups and slowing a nationwide surge of xenophobic attacks and hate crimes. But many of those who have been targeted are journalists, rights advocates and opposition leaders, including former world chess champion Garry Kasparov.

With just three months remaining before parliamentary elections – and six before Russians chose a new president – fears have grown that President Vladimir Putin’s government is using the legislation as another tool to consolidate its grip on the country’s political life.

“This is a very dangerous law that will open the road to mass repression,” said Andrei Piontkovsky, a political analyst and member of a liberal political party who faces extremism charges over his book “Unloved Country,” which is critical of the Kremlin.

Among the people and organizations suspected of extremist activity in recent months:

- A columnist at the business newspaper *Vedomosti*, who has been critical of the Kremlin, who said he was forced by police to sign a document saying he was not a member of an extremist organization.

- A prominent human rights activist accused of shouting extremist slogans

during a protest against what he said was a politically motivated court case.

- The National Bolshevik Party, a radical group that has teamed up with Kasparov’s political organization; and the Russian-Chechen Friendship Society, a rights group fiercely critical of the government’s military campaign in Chechnya, both declared extremist organizations by courts.

- Kasparov, now a leading opposition figure, who was questioned by federal security agents about whether he had made extremist statements in a radio interview and in articles published in his opposition group’s newspaper.

The law’s broadly worded language gives authorities wide latitude to charge people or close down organizations for otherwise insignificant violations, critics say.

“In practice, as a tool, it’s used randomly,” said Alexander Verkhovsky, whose SOVA rights center monitors extremism, hate crime and religious freedoms. “Any group could end up targeted by the law – any group: neo-Nazi, human rights groups, center, left, completely apolitical groups.”

Rights groups, including SOVA, have long complained that little has been done to address an upsurge in hate crime attacks, often targeting dark-skinned migrants from the Caucasus region or former Soviet Central Asia.

Putin has spoken out with increasing frequency about the problem, and many lawmakers cited the rise in ethnically motivated violence in voting for the amendments, which added crimes driven by political, ideological or social hatred to the existing definition of extremism.

More strikingly, the law now prohibits media from referring to organizations that were banned as extremist without mentioning the ban, and introduces fines for printers and publishers for disseminating extremist literature and bars those convicted of extremism from running for public office.



Activists of the National Bolshevik Party wave their party flag from the windows of the Finance Ministry, while OMON riot police officers try to detain the protesters in Moscow last year. A widening net of criminal prosecutions is being brought in Russia under a newly updated law on extremism and the NBP was declared an extremist organization by the country’s highest court on Aug. 7. (AP)

In arguing for the legislation, Sergei Abeltsev, a member of Russia’s lower house of parliament, said the Bolshevik revolutionaries who seized power in 1917 were essentially extremists – a suggestion that reflects Kremlin fears about an Ukraine-style Orange Revolution, when youth groups helped organize mass protests that overturned a rigged presidential election in 2004 won by a Kremlin-friendly candidate.

“1917 was a tragedy and the lack of a fight against extremism and the liberal policies of the police allowed this exact tragedy to happen,” he said in comments on Ekho Moskvy radio.

As the Kremlin under Putin has steadily stifled political opposition, leaders in regions have also moved to silence their critics.

Gagarin was one of several hundred people who gathered for a demonstra-

tion in January in Orel, a largely agricultural region some 350 kilometers (220 miles) southwest of Moscow.

Demonstrators were angered by high food prices and a lack of jobs and accused the regional governor of destroying the local economy, he said.

He made no apologies for using a few choice words – “liar,” “scum” and “carion” among them, but no obscenities – to criticize the governor. He also called for the administration to be shot.

“I wouldn’t have said it if it wasn’t the truth,” he said. “If he doesn’t leave (on his own), then people should throw him out themselves.”

Prosecutors in Orel refused to comment on the case and officials in the Orel governor’s press office did not answer repeated phone calls. If convicted, Gagarin could be sentenced to up to

three years in prison and ordered to pay a fine equal to two years of his pension.

Defense lawyer Lyubov Samoilova said Gagarin spoke in the heat of a political demonstration, where emotions were high. She said his calling for the government to be shot, while perhaps unwise, was not taken seriously, otherwise he would have been charged with a more serious offense.

Samoilova also said the fact that the governor and his lawyer did not show up for the first day of hearings last week – forcing the court to reschedule until Tuesday – highlights the precariousness of the case.

“Genuine extremists are going unnoticed. Organized crime groups are going unseen. To view a 71-year-old retiree ... as an extremist, you have to be a truly abnormal person,” she said.

REGIONAL BRIEFS

Czech gov’t promises aid to radar-proximate people

PRAGUE, Czech Republic (AP) – The Czech government on Sept. 5 pledged development aid to villages potentially affected by the project to build a US radar base near Prague.

“This region has been under-financed for a long time,” Czech Premier Mirek Topolánek said, adding water and sewage systems as well as general infrastructure would be the focus of the aid project.

He declined to specify the financial amount involved, but other government officials indicated earlier it could range between 200-300 million koruna (\$ 9.8-14.7 million).

While some 65 percent of Czechs reject the idea of the radar base, Topolánek’s three-party center-right coalition supports it.

“This [missile defense] system is meaningful and necessary for the future,” Foreign Minister Karel Schwarzenberg said.

The location of a former Soviet base some 85 kilometers (53 miles) southwest of Prague was chosen by the Czech defense ministry after consultations with the US earlier this year.

The U.S. plan to build the radar site in Czech Republic and station missile interceptors in Poland has also been bitterly opposed by Russia.

EU official rejects idea of dividing Kosovo

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) – A European Union official on Sept. 5 rejected the idea of dividing Serbia’s Kosovo province along ethnic lines as part of a diplomatic compromise on the future status of Kosovo.

EU Enlargement Commissioner Olli Rehn said the 27-nation bloc «sticks to the guiding principles» of the Contact Group of international mediators, which comprises the U.S., Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Russia.

“These do not include partition,” Rehn told reporters after talks with Serbian Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic. He said however, the EU would back almost any deal reached between Belgrade and Pristina to resolve the crisis.

“If they can agree on a solution, almost every solution is acceptable for the European Union,” Rehn said.

Jeremic reiterated that his government was “strongly opposed to partition of Serbia.”

The Netherlands has suggested partition might be a workable compromise if the rival sides agree. However the EU and other mediators fear such an idea could set a dangerous precedent.

Lithuania places top secret documents on Internet

VILNIUS, Lithuania (AP) – Once-secret KGB files can now be viewed online, thanks to a project launched by Lithuanian historians who want to shed light on the clandestine workings of the former Soviet police agency.

Secret directives sent from Moscow to KGB headquarters in the three Baltic states – Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia – are now available to anyone with Internet access.

Among other things, the files list suspected traitors and people sentenced to death.

Internet browsers can also learn about the complex workings of the KGB and its predecessor, the NKVD. The documents, which are scanned from the originals, can

be viewed in English and Russian.

Dalia Kuodyte, the director of the Vilnius-based Genocide and Resistance Research Center, said the project aims to prove beyond doubt that the Baltic states were occupied by the Soviet Union after World War II.

“Historians from the three countries have always been annoyed by Russian propaganda claiming that there had never been any occupation of any of the three Baltic states,” she said.

Moscow court upholds arrest warrant for tycoon

MOSCOW (AP) – A Moscow court on Sept. 5 upheld a warrant issued for the arrest of Mikhail Gutseriyev, a Russian billionaire who has accused the government of forcing him to step down as the head of his oil company.

The case has echoes of the Kremlin’s campaign against Mikhail Khodorkovsky, the founder of the Yukos oil company, now serving an eight-year prison sentence after being convicted of tax evasion and fraud.

Gutseriyev, who has been charged with tax evasion and illegal business activity, did not attend the hearing. His whereabouts are unknown but he is thought to have fled the country. An international warrant for his arrest was issued Aug. 24.

The fate of his company, RUSNEFT, the seventh largest oil company in Russia, was uncertain.

Gutseriyev had agreed to sell the company to Oleg Deripaska, a metals tycoon with closer ties to the Kremlin, but the deal was thrown into doubt when a court froze RUSNEFT’s shares on July 31 in connection with the tax evasion charges.

The Moscow City Court did not rule Sept. 5 on an appeal against the share freeze, which remains in effect. Any transactions are prohibited, the judges said.

The holdup of the sale to Deripaska has been seen as an indication of disagreement within the Kremlin over who should take over the oil company.

Deripaska’s holding company, Basic Element, applied to the federal antitrust agency last week for approval to purchase RUSNEFT. The application is still pending.

Russian parliament ratifies Latvia border agreement

MOSCOW (AP) – The lower house of Russia’s parliament on Sept. 5 ratified a border treaty with Latvia that allows Russia to retain a swathe of land contested by Latvian nationalists.

The treaty gives Russia control of an area known as the Pytalovo district to Russians and Abrene to Latvians that was seized by the Soviet Union after World War II. Latvian nationalists protested the agreement as a sellout when the Latvian parliament signed it earlier this year, but supporters hope the agreement will help improve often-chilly relations with Russia.

Moscow frequently complains that Latvia discriminates against its large ethnic Russian population and regards Latvia’s membership in NATO and the European Union as Western encroachment on Russia’s border.

The 357-50 approval vote by the State Duma sends the measure to the upper chamber, the Federation Council, where it is almost certain to be approved and sent to President Vladimir Putin for

signing. Latvia already has ratified and signed the measure.

OSCE chief warns against further Georgia incursions

TBILISI, Georgia (AP) – The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe will meet this week to assess Georgia’s report of a Russian aircraft intruding in its airspace and dropping an unexploded missile on a Georgian village, the group’s chairman said Sept. 4.

Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos, who currently chairs the trans-Atlantic security group, strongly warned against further air incursions.

“What I think should be good ... for security and stability in the region isn’t to repeat the incident similar to what happened on Aug. 6,” Moratinos told reporters after meeting with Georgian officials in Tbilisi.

Moratinos did not directly blame Russia, saying the OSCE would assess the incident on Sept. 6 in Vienna. He said, however, that it was necessary to intensify a dialogue between Georgia and Russia to avoid further incidents.

Georgia said a Russian Su-24 jet entered the country’s airspace on Aug. 6 and dropped a missile. It did not explode, and no one was hurt. Russia has denied the allegations.

The OSCE said in a report released shortly after the incident that its mission had confirmed that Georgian airspace was violated, but could not say how many and what kind of aircraft were involved. The mission also said it could not identify the missile.

EDITORIAL

Elitism hurts

Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich saw a little of what Kyivans have to deal with on a daily basis on Sept. 4 when he spent the day in the capital on a working visit. His government cortege had a chance to see what traffic is really like when the police aren't clearing the way for the prime minister and other high officials.

Yanukovich's "modern" solution: helicopters for top officials.

A few days earlier, Internal Affairs Minister Vasyl Tsushko was on the stump in Kharkiv, where he said that someone "helped me fall ill" when journalists asked about his May heart attack. Tsushko was whisked away to Germany, where he underwent surgery paid for by his friends. He said that if he remained in Ukraine for medical treatment, then he would have been dead more than 40 days ago.

Tsushko was not the first and will not be the last high-level Ukrainian politician to seek expensive medical treatment abroad instead of turning to the domestic medical system that millions of Ukrainians rely on. Many in the Ukrainian political elite trust their health and children's higher education to foreigners, sending them to expensive schools abroad instead of the institutes millions of Ukrainian students attend.

There are expensive foreign schools in Kyiv attended by children of foreign embassy staffs and businessmen, rich Ukrainian businessmen and politicians. Last week, veteran television journalist Ihor Slissarenko was dismissed after what he claims was his report that President Viktor Yushchenko's three children are attending one such school, where tuition stands at \$12,000 per child per year.

At first glance these three episodes may seem unrelated, but they point to an underlying problem with the psyche of the political elite that smacks of the Soviet era, when the privileged caste called the nomenklatura, comprised of high-level Communist and government officials, lived in a separate reality than millions of regular people. These three episodes – 16 years after independence – show that the shadow of the Soviet system still lingers and high-level officials consider themselves to be somehow better and thus deserving of a lifestyle far better than that of the average person.

Yanukovich should have addressed the issue of traffic in the capital city and explained to voters the government's plans for relieving the congestion instead of explaining how he personally will avoid the jams.

Tsushko is sending a politically dangerous message to the country's doctors by essentially saying that he does not trust the country's medical system.

And the people responsible for the firing of TV journalist Slissarenko have done a great disservice to Yushchenko, who has pointed to the freedom of the media as one of the Orange Revolution's great achievements.

As for the voters, they should challenge all wealthy politicians to explain why they deserve support at the polls when they are living in a parallel reality, where the standard of living is far better than that enjoyed by the entire country. Politicians, in turn, should explain their plans for raising the quality of Ukrainian services to European standards in medicine, education, and even traffic.

Opening doors

In a game of geopolitical hardball, Ukraine has again reiterated its longstanding objections to simply being a neighbor to Europe, meaning a part of the European Union's so-called European Neighborhood Policy (ENP), with Ukraine's Ambassador to the EU Roman Shepk telling a high-level conference on the ENP in Brussels Sept. 3 that the bloc's foreign policy instrument remains inadequate for the country.

"We can only work on the premise that Ukraine remains an integral part of a united Europe," he said, noting the significance of negotiating a new enhanced partnership agreement with the EU.

Quoting former European Commission president, Romano Prodi, Shepk said the best instrument to facilitate reforms in other countries was the prospect of EU membership.

The *Post* couldn't agree more. We believe that Ukraine needs the prospect of eventual EU membership, which would help facilitate and speed reforms in this country and place Ukraine on a more level playing field with its European neighbors. As a whole, EU interests also coincide with Ukraine becoming a member eventually. Why dance around the issue? Ukraine has played its cards right in pushing the door open. The EU should make clear that Ukraine has a chance.

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Scoring for philanthropy



The captain of Ukraine's national team, Andriy Shevchenko (right), accepts a check on behalf of his foundation for 50,000 euros from Italian pop singer Gianni Morandi in Kyiv on Sept. 4. Both played in the celebrity football match organized as a fundraiser for children's hospitals in Ukraine. (Courtesy photo)

Can Boryspil Airport become a hub?

VOLODYMYR BILOTKACH

While waiting for my flight at Boryspil International Airport (KBP) earlier this summer, I noticed something was different. It is true, Terminal B has been expanded, but this was done at least a year before, and is not what I am talking about here.

I noticed (from announcements made in the terminal) that some passengers – and more than before – travel not to and from Ukraine, but through Ukraine, using KBP as their transfer airport. Does this mean that the gateway to Ukraine is actually becoming a hub, as envisioned by both airline executives and officials over the past several years? Do Ukraine's airlines pursue the right strategy by trying to channel passengers through KBP? How successful will they be?

The so-called 'hub-and-spoke' system is one of the outcomes of deregulation of the US airline market, which happened in 1978. Once the market was liberalized, the airlines discovered they could optimize their operations by routing their passengers via one or several points in their network. This way, it became possible for the airlines to service more cities with fewer flights.

As an example, to connect five cities on the West Coast to the same number of cities on the East Coast, the airline could either offer 25 non-stop coast-to-coast flights, or direct all its coast-to-coast traffic via a hub in the middle, which will only require offering 10 flights (five from the West Coast to the hub, and five from the East Coast, also to the hub). As they now say in the Southern States, "You may go to heaven or hell when you die, but you will have to stop in Atlanta (Delta Air Lines' hub and the world's busiest airport) on the way."

In addition to optimizing their networks, airlines using the hub-and-spoke system were able to both offer higher frequency of service and fill up their planes more. In a very competitive airline business, the carriers have to keep their costs in check, and filling up the airplanes is one way to do so. Economists call this 'economies of traffic density,' which translated means "per passenger cost is lower the fuller the flight is."

Of course, every solution brings about new problems. The ones associated with running a hub-and-spoke system relate to overcrowding of the hub airport (recent research showed that a good portion of flight delays in the US are 'self-imposed' by airlines running overcrowded hub airports); and potentially devastating effects of adverse weather affecting the airline's hub for the airline's entire network (again, on the US market, I can name three such events this year alone off the top of my head, each of them receiving a lot of media attention).

Let me, however, return to the questions I posed in the first paragraph. So, is Boryspil becoming a hub? There is some progress in this direction, but the number of transit passengers at KBP is definitely small relative to the airport's total traffic.

I do applaud Aerosvit's and Ukraine International Airline's (UIA) ambition for developing sound networks (and it is my impression that Aerosvit is doing more in this respect than UIA), but none of the two airlines will be able to turn Boryspil into a hub alone. Ukraine International has a well-established position in Western Europe; whereas Aerosvit's primary presence is in Asia, North America and Eastern Europe.

This is a somewhat simplified description, as both carriers fly to the Middle East, and Aerosvit does have some flights to Western Europe, but these facts do not change what I see as the fundamental problem on the way to turning KBP into a true hub.

Specifically, given the current network structure of the two airlines, the lucrative Western Europe-Asia market remains closed to Ukrainian carriers. Instead, in addition to many direct services available, people travel via Moscow, Istanbul, or Helsinki. Moreover, a good number of Ukraine-Asia traffic goes via Moscow – these are people who could be on (yet non-existent) direct flights from Kyiv; and adding transit passengers from Europe is precisely what could make such flights cost-effective.

So, my advice to UIA and Aerosvit is simple – cooperate. Enter into an agreement, which will allow passengers arriving to Kyiv on Aerosvit's flights from Shanghai, Beijing or New Delhi to

hop on Ukraine International's flights to Amsterdam, London, or Paris. Of course, there will be certain problems that need to be overcome: Schedules will need to be coordinated; potentially higher frequencies will need to be stipulated in air services agreements with some countries.

However, this cooperation will bring higher traffic, fuller flights, more frequent services to existing destinations, and quite possibly non-stop flights to more cities. After all, this will put Boryspil on the map as one of the world's major airports, and make Ukraine's airlines more competitive on the global market.

Some may say that instead of cooperation, the airlines should simply merge. While this definitely will make routing passengers through KBP easier, this will also mean less competition on Ukraine's domestic market. An alliance between Ukraine's two main carriers, on the other hand, will not produce such an adverse effect.

Operationally, with two runways, KBP looks ready to handle more flights, which is something potential hub status will require. What the airport will need to work on, however, is adding the terminal capacity and simplifying the procedure for handling transit passengers. So far, the latter looks to me like the one I experienced flying via Sheremetyevo last year – works fine if you have very few transit passengers, but becomes confusing and quite inconvenient as more people fly through the airport.

As I think about Ukrainian carriers' position on the future global airline market, the Europe-Asia and North America-Asia niches look like a natural choice, with traffic channeled via KBP. However, achieving this goal will require cooperation between the airlines, adding terminal capacity to Boryspil, and simplifying transit procedure. Hopefully, several years from now people in London will be sharing their (doubtlessly good) impressions about a recent flight from Tokyo via Kyiv.

Volodymyr Bilotkach is a Research Fellow at the Kyiv School of Economics and Assistant Professor at the University of California, Irvine.

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Requirements: University degree in Economics/Finance; 2+ years of professional experience on a similar position; good knowledge of Factory procedures (warehousing, production, factory support departments and documentation turnover through factory); deep knowledge of Ukrainian Legislation, in-depth knowledge of Management accounting, IFRS reporting; ability to demonstrate excellent interpersonal skills and build trusting relationships externally and internally.
- **SAP IT Delivery Manager** (code AGR 3237)
Requirements: University Degree (IT or Business preferred); 3+ years of successful experience in SAP implementation within FMCG company project and resource management; ability to communicate and explain local IT procedures; experience in program designing and developing.
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- **Well-known international FMCG (non-food) company**
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- **A multinational manufacturing corporation**
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- **Regional Sales Manager (Central Ukraine)** (code YK 3255)
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Project manager (real estate)

Responsibilities:

- To determine investment appeal and perspectives of projects, purposes, assignments;
- To carry on business negotiations with Sellers;
- To form the structure of projects, structure of expenses on projects and variants of exits from projects;
- To provide the general management of projects, to form the offer of financing structure of projects, organization of purchase of objects;
- Financial responsibility for committed for project facilities.

Requirements:

- Strong academic background in economic and finance;
- 5+ years of relevant professional experience;
- Knowledge of real estate market and ability to identify adequate projects for the real estate fund;
- Experience in consulting;
- Experience of projects maintenance.

Project manager (stock market)

Responsibilities:

- Development of the projects' realization strategy;
- Definition of the investment appeal and perspectives of projects, purposes, assignments;
- Provision of general project management and its realization;
- Conducting of negotiations;
- Financial responsibility for committed for project facilities.

Requirements:

- Strong academic background in economic and finance;
- 5+ years of relevant professional experience;
- Knowledge of stock market and ability to identify adequate projects for securities and stock market;
- Experience in consulting;
- Experience of projects maintenance.

We require:

- Top quality education background;
- Strong ambition to be responsible for a financial household;
- Strong communicative attitude and internationally oriented;
- Responsibility for made decisions;
- Mentality to work in a strong team and to deliver;
- Result - oriented;
- Fluent in English.

Investments Manager (real estate)

Responsibilities:

- Search of potential objects for investment (land plots, real estate objects);
- Search of information about objects and competitors;
- Performance of transactions support of purchase-sale of real estate;
- Participation in developing of concept and exit from project.

Requirements:

- Strong academic background in economic and finance;
- 3+ years of relevant professional experience;
- Proactive and able to work under pressure;
- Hard working, able to work in a team;
- Stress resistance;
- Good communication skills.

Investments Manager (stock market)

Responsibilities:

- Search of potential objects for investment (assets of legal and physical bodies);
- Search of information about objects and competitors;
- Preparation of industry surveys on particular organizations;
- Forming of investment proposals;
- Conducting of transactions support of securities business.

Requirements:

- Strong academic background in economic and finance;
- 3+ years of relevant professional experience;
- Proactive and able to work under pressure;
- Hard working, able to work in a team;
- Stress resistance;
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We offer:

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- Team of professionals;
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Senior Analyst (stock market)

Responsibilities:

- Analysis of efficiency of the marketing measures;
- Risks analysis;
- Final estimation of the investment projects;
- Preparation of analytical reports;
- Financial modeling;
- Performance of financial due diligence process;
- Identification of potential projects, target companies;
- Marketing process - assistance with identification of potential counterparties.

Requirements:

- Strong academic background in economic and finance;
- 5+ years of relevant professional experience;
- Use of data entry and analysis software;
- Organized, detail-oriented, multitasking;
- Proactive and able to work under pressure;
- Strong analytical skills, competent in legal issues.

Senior Lawyer (stock market)

Responsibilities:

- Legal support of consolidation of controlling interest of - holders company;
- Legal and entrepreneurial consulting;
- Organization and conducting of the general shareholders meeting;
- Complete legal support of registration, changes in process of activity and liquidation of legal persons;
- Work with "due diligence"
- Protection of interests of the enterprise and founders (owners);
- Project finance;
- Preparation and approval of difficult and un standard agreements.

Requirements:

- Strong academic background in legal;
- 5+ years of relevant professional experience;
- Organized, detail-oriented, multitasking;
- Expert in legal programs;
- Excellent drafting skills relevant to documents in major areas in securities field.

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- laufende Marktbeobachtung und Berichterstattung sowie Zusammenarbeit mit den regionalen Objektpartnern
- Planung und Koordination der Verkäufe in Abstimmung mit anderen Gewerken und Fremdprodukten
- Erstellen und Bearbeiten von Ausschreibungen

Voraussetzungen:

- kaufmännische oder technische Ausbildung
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- sicheres Auftreten, Präsentations- und Verhandlungsgeschick
- Reisefreudigkeit und Führerschein
- gute EDV-Kenntnisse (Power Point, Word, Excel, Microsoft Office)
- Berufserfahrung in der Zusammenarbeit mit obiger Zielgruppe
- sehr gute Kenntnisse der deutschen und ukrainischen Sprache, Englisch als zusätzliche Fremdsprache ist von Vorteil

Als international tätige Unternehmensgruppe für Beschlagtechnik und elektronische Schließsysteme ist HÄFELE ein bevorzugter Partner von Möbelindustrie, Schreinerhandwerk, Innenausbauern, Architekten, Designern und Handel in rund 150 Länder. Mit unserem berührungslosen multifunktionalen Identifikations- und Schließsystem DIALOCK verfügen wir über digitale Schließtechnik der Zukunft.

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- Erstellen und Bearbeiten von Ausschreibungen
- Projektierung der Zutrittskontrolle
- Planung, Koordination von Dialock, auch in Abstimmung mit anderen Gewerken und Fremdprodukten
- Gesamtverantwortung / Überwachung vom Auftragsingang bis zur Objektübergabe

Voraussetzungen:

- Ausbildung und Berufserfahrung als Elektro-Techniker/in bzw. Ingenieur/in alternativ: erfahrener Bauelektriker/in mit Elektronik-Zusatzausbildung oder gleichwertige Tätigkeit in einem Planungsbüro
- sicheres Auftreten, Präsentations- und Verhandlungsgeschick
- Reisefreudigkeit und Führerschein
- gute EDV-Kenntnisse (Power Point, Word, Excel, Microsoft-Office)
- Berufserfahrung in der Zusammenarbeit mit obiger Zielgruppe
- sehr gute Kenntnisse der deutschen und ukrainischen Sprache, Englisch als zusätzliche Fremdsprache ist von Vorteil

Ein durchdachtes Einarbeitungsprogramm ist ebenso selbstverständlich wie berufsbegleitende Weiterbildung.

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Key Account Manager (KAM) for the furniture industry

Tasks:

- Visiting our industrial customers
- Acquiring and advising new customers
- Introducing new fitting developments and innovations
- Professional consultation and presentation
- Assessment of requirements and telephone sales
- Handling / preparing inquiries and quotations
- Quotation tracking and order processing

Requirements:

- Business or technical qualifications in the industry
- Confident approach, presentation and negotiation skills
- Knowledge of the products and industry in the area of furniture fittings or furniture production
- Work experience in the furniture industry
- Ability to work independently as part of our team
- Good IT skills (PowerPoint, Word, Excel, Microsoft Office)
- Willingness to travel and a driving licence
- Very good knowledge of English and Ukrainian, German as an additional language would be an advantage

Since we are looking to further expand our activities in the Ukraine and in this market, we are looking for someone to join our office in Lviv for the area of Kiev/eastern Ukraine, working in particular with architects, technical planners, designers, general contractors, investors etc. as an

Architect/Project Consultant for architectural hardware

Tasks:

- Maintaining permanent contact with the above-mentioned target group
- Professional consultation and presentation, on-site training
- Overall responsibility / monitoring of incoming orders up to project handover
- Coordination with subcontractors / cooperating partners
- Ongoing market monitoring and reporting, as well as cooperation with our regional project partners
- Planning and organising sales in coordination with other trades and third-party products
- Creating and editing tenders

Requirements:

- Business or technical qualifications
- Experience in acquisition and advising the above-mentioned target group
- Knowledge of the products and industry in the area of architectural hardware and furniture fittings, emergency exit security and door technology
- Confident approach, presentation and negotiation skills
- Willingness to travel and a driving licence
- Good IT skills (PowerPoint, Word, Excel, Microsoft Office)
- Experience in working together with the above-mentioned target group
- Very good knowledge of English and Ukrainian, German as an additional language would be an advantage

Since we are looking to further expand our activities in the Ukraine and in this market, we are looking for someone to join our office in Lviv for the area of Lviv/western Ukraine, working in particular with architects, technical planners, designers, general contractors, investors etc. as an

Architect/Project Consultant for architectural hardware

Tasks:

- Maintaining permanent contact with the above-mentioned target group
- Professional consultation and presentation, on-site training
- Overall responsibility / monitoring of incoming orders up to project handover
- Coordination with subcontractors / cooperating partners
- Ongoing market monitoring and reporting, as well as cooperation with our regional project partners
- Planning and organising sales in coordination with other trades and third-party products
- Creating and editing tenders

Requirements:

- Business or technical qualifications
- Experience in acquisition and advising the above-mentioned target group
- Knowledge of the products and industry in the area of architectural hardware and furniture fittings, emergency exit security and door technology
- Confident approach, presentation and negotiation skills
- Willingness to travel and a driving licence
- Good IT skills (PowerPoint, Word, Excel, Microsoft Office)
- Experience in working together with the above-mentioned target group
- Very good knowledge of English and Ukrainian, German as an additional language would be an advantage

As an international group of companies specialising in hardware technology and electronic locking systems, HÄFELE is the partner of choice for the furniture industry, joinery trade, interior fitters, architects, designers and trade in around 150 countries. Our touchless, multi-functional DIALOCK identification and locking system is the digital locking technology of the future.

Since we are looking to further expand our activities in the Ukraine and in this market, we are looking for someone to join our office in Lviv, working in particular with architects, technical planners, designers, general contractors, investors etc. as a

Project Consultant/Technician for the DIALOCK electronic locking system

Tasks:

- Maintaining permanent contact with the above-mentioned target group
- Professional consultation, sales, presentation and on-site training
- Creating and editing tenders
- Planning access control systems
- Planning and organising Dialock, also in coordination with other trades and third-party products
- Overall responsibility / monitoring of incoming orders up to project handover

Requirements:

- Qualifications and work experience as an electrical engineer / engineer, alternatively: Experienced electrician in the construction industry with further training in electronics or similar experience in a planning office
- Confident approach, presentation and negotiation skills
- Willingness to travel and a driving licence
- Good IT skills (PowerPoint, Word, Excel, Microsoft Office)
- Experience in working together with the above-mentioned target group
- Very good knowledge of English and Ukrainian, German as an additional language would be an advantage

We will, of course, provide you with a well thought-out induction programme as well as further professional training.

If you are interested in this position, please send your CV, references and a cover letter to our Personnel Department.



• **Worldwide supply partner of choice for industry, rafts and trade for furniture fittings and architectural hardware**

• **A group of companies which has been expanding for decades with 31 subsidiaries in Europe and overseas**

• **Business focus: Sales of 50,000 stocked articles**

• **Logistics centre in Nagold, Germany, with 3,800 dispatches daily**

• **Our headquarters along with the management and 900 staff is in Nagold.**



Alfred C. Toepfer International was founded in Hamburg in 1919 and is one of the leading traders in agricultural commodity trade. Toepfer's International trading activities are concentrated on grain, feedstuffs, vegetable oils, flour and malt as well as fertilizers, with over 43 offices and branches throughout the world. Alfred C. Toepfer International (Ukraine) Ltd. is 100% subsidiary of Alfred C. Toepfer International that has been working in Ukraine since 1999 and due to its continued growth is looking for:

Компанія "Alfred C. Toepfer International" була заснована у м. Гамбург у 1919 році і є одним з провідних підприємств у галузі торгівлі сільськогосподарськими культурами, а саме зерновими та кормовими продуктами, рослинними оліями, борошном, солодом та мінеральними добривами, маючи 43 офіси та регіональні відділення у всьому світі. ТОВ "Альфред С. Топфер Інтернешенал (Україна)", яка працює в Україні з 1999 року, є на 100% дочірньою компанією "Alfred C. Toepfer International". У зв'язку з подальшим розширенням діяльності компанії ми оголошуємо про відкриття наступних вакансій:

FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

Major requirements:

1. Higher Education in Economy or Finance
2. 2-3 years experience in Finance/Controlling/Reporting
3. Knowledge of current Ukrainian tax legislation and Ukrainian accounting standards
4. Fluent in English both written and verbal
5. Knowledge of IAS and financial software is a plus, preferably 1C: Accounting
6. Working place - countryside of Ukraine (min. 2years)
7. Hard working, able to work in a team.

Please send your CV in English with reference "Financial Controller".
Відправляйте свої резюме на адресу електронної пошти:
HR@acti.kiev.ua або факсом: /044/ 230 14 99.

Група компаний
АТОЛЛ ХОЛДИНГ объявляет
конкурс на вакансию

ВЕДУЩИЙ ЮРИСКОНСУЛЬТ

Основные обязанности:

- составление методических рекомендаций по применению налогового законодательства и усовершенствованию хозяйственной политики холдинга;
- ведение сложных судебных дел компаний холдинга;
- составление и визирование сложных, нестандартных договоров.

Основные требования:

- Высшее образование по специальности "Правоведение";
- практика ведения судебных дел по налоговым спорам не менее 1 года;
- стаж работы по правовому сопровождению хозяйственной деятельности крупных предприятий с применением налогового законодательства не менее 5-ти лет.

Контакты:

resume@atollholding.com.ua.
Факс: 496-84-69, тел. 496-84-87.
Барвара Тернова



ICRC

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Regional Delegation of Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova is seeking an experienced **Communications Officer**.

The communications officer plays an advisory role to the Head of Delegation on the issues related to internal and external communications. He/she is responsible for the media relations, writing reports and analyzing developments of the political situation in the region. He/she supports the delegation's programs in dissemination and implementation of international humanitarian law in the countries covered by the delegation - Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova (including a separate file for Transdnistrian Moldovan Republic).

Profile and experience

- 25-30 years old
- University degree, preferably in journalism, political science or communications
- At least 3 years of experience in media
- Strong analytical and communication skills
- Fluent English, Russian and Ukrainian, both spoken and written.

Main duties and responsibilities include but not limited to:

- Developing and maintaining good contacts with media;
- Providing media coverage of the ICRC activities as well as feeding and updating the ICRC Russian language website;
- Following political, economic, social and humanitarian developments in the countries covered by the delegation;
- Producing press releases, newsletters, fact sheets, briefing notes for the media and the ICRC partners in the governments, academic circles, Red Cross Societies and other organizations;
- Editing various reports, for both internal and external use;
- Taking initiative in proposing communication projects to increase the delegation's visibility and support the programs implemented by the delegation;
- Organizing various events: press conferences, exhibitions, round tables, seminars;
- Facilitating constant exchange of information between the delegation's departments and acting as a link between them.

Please do send your cover letter and resume in English to:
ICRC Kyiv Administrator, Alexander Vygovsky,
by email: kyiv.kyi@icrc.org or fax: +380 44 235 4596.
Deadline for submission of applications:
September 21, 2007.

Manpower is the largest human resources company in the world, founded in 1948, with more than 4400 offices in 73 countries and over 400,000 clients around the Globe



Technical Specialist

Required for the Well-Known Leader in Automobile Industry

- Higher education in Mechanical/Automotive engineering is preferable
- Relevant experience is an advantage
- After Sales Field or automotive experience is a plus
- Highly motivated, good team worker who can handle a broad range of responsibilities
- Good computer skills of Windows Applications: MS Word, Excel, Power Point
- Good English is a must

Project Technical Specialist

Required for the International Leader in Construction Industry

- Higher education: Civil Engineering, Industrial and Construction Engineering
- Work experience in the construction area
- Ability to make projects and calculations, conduct seminars
- Intermediate level of English
- Advanced PC user
- Driving license availability

Solutions manager Safety and Government networks

Required for the International Telecommunication Company

- Higher education
- Good English
- Extensive competence in IP architecture design and IP-telephony
- Ability to do both designs for tenders and practical installations for lab environment
- Extensive competence in tele and datacommunication
- Highly developed presentation and communication skills
- Very good understanding of solution design and verification, understanding of the complete network solution

Solution Integrator

Required for the International Telecommunication Company

- Technical experience from Datacom or related industry
- Knowledge of Telecom standards (GSM, GPRS, WAP, UMTS, IMS), network protocols and standards (MAP, TCP/IP, MPLS), web and application protocols (XML, Diameter, SIP, SQL)
- Preferable knowledge of UNIX (Solaris, BSD, Linux) at a level of system administrator
- Skills of local network administration, configuration of switches, routers, firewalls, proxy servers, DNS, Radius
- Good English

Commercial Director

Required for the Multinational Logistic Company

- Degree in Economics, MBA is an asset
- More than 4 years of experience on the position of commercial director, manager, sales director, logistic director of production company, director of the company
- Excellent knowledge of economy, marketing, management, knowledge of operational processes
- Advanced PC user
- Fluent English
- Excellent presentation, negotiation and communication skills
- Driving license availability is a plus

Account Manager

Required for the International Company producing audio/video equipment

- Higher education
- Background in electronic field and basic knowledge of marketing is preferable
- 2-3 years' experience in sales
- Professional experience with foreign companies is a plus
- Experienced PC user
- Good knowledge of English
- Excellent negotiation, communication and presentation skills
- Driving license availability

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Great opportunity for prospective HR professionals in a successful international company

Our Client is a member firm of a global network of firms providing audit, tax and advisory services and operating in approximately 150 countries around the world. To support and lead further growth and development in Ukraine, the firm is looking for

HR specialist

Reporting: HR Partner

Responsibilities:

- Develop and lead HR department in recruitment, compensation and benefits, and training
- Implement and administrate all HR matters within the company
- Supervise internal communications and HR related programs

Requirements:

- 2+ years experience in a similar HR position in an international company
- Excellent knowledge of Ukrainian labor legislation
- Excellent interpersonal, communication and negotiation skills
- Ability to work independently and in a team, and under time pressure
- University degree
- Fluent in English, Ukrainian and Russian

A strong level of commitment for success will ensure corresponding remuneration.

For the particulars, visit our web-site www.hudson.com and <http://jobs.ukraine.hudson.com>

Please apply by sending your CV to elena.doborodneva@jobs.hudson.com, indicating the reference code UA_34069

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Are you looking for a new horizon?

DTZ is a leading global real estate advisory and consultancy firm of more than 11,000 staff in 200 offices in 40 countries around the world. Since its establishment in Kyiv in 1994, DTZ has grown into the leading multi-discipline property advisory service provider in Ukraine offering fully integrated in-house consultancy services to the property market.

Research Analyst

Job summary: We are now seeking to expand our existing research department and are looking for self motivated individual to compile and analyze research information / databases; as well as to undertake research into ongoing and projected developments, and transactions of commercial and residential real estate throughout Ukraine.

Requirements: Strong command of English, Russian and Ukrainian, a willingness to learn quickly, an ability to work within a team meeting deadlines, strong analytical skills, accurate, and responsible.

Salary & benefits: We offer you competitive compensation package; healthy working environment in a team of young and experienced professionals; excellent opportunity to gain the knowledge of local as well as global property market in regard to international standards in the leading company; wide growth opportunities.



Architect / Architectural Technician

Job summary: An experienced individual required to undertake design work on concept development for retail mall, office and warehousing developments; master planning of residential complexes; preparation of technical briefs for development; as well as city land use and planning consultancy.

Requirements: Command of spoken English, 1-2 years experience as an Architect / Architectural Technician, competency in construction regulations (SNIP, DBN), operating ability in AutoCAD, ArchiCAD etc.

Curriculum Vitae and covering letter should be submitted in English to **Irina Korniyko**
E-mail: irina.korniyko@dtz.kiev.ua
Tel.: 590 30 60
www.dtz.com/ua



m.i.p. Ukraine HR Consultancy

For our clients, well-known international companies we are looking for:

SALES REPRESENTATIVE (COUNTRY MANAGER)

- 5+ sales or technical marketing experience
 - deep knowledge of market of construction materials
 - fluent English or German

SENIOR ASSOCIATE / DIRECTOR OF INVESTMENTS

- 4+ relevant experience on M&A, Corporate Finance
- excellent presentation and sales skills
 - fluent English

DIRECTOR OF CONSTRUCTION

- 10+ relevant experience in construction
- higher education (construction/architecture)
- extensive experience in civil construction

PROJECT MANAGER (LEASING)

- 3+ experience in leasing, B2B, financial services
 - extensive experience in sales
 - fluent English

LAWYER

- 5 + in corporate, tax/finance or real estate law
 - fluent English

ALL POSITIONS OFFER EXCELLENT REMUNERATION PACKAGES AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT.

To apply please e-mail: mip@mip.kiev.ua

All-Ukrainian Public Organization "Institute for Budgetary and Socio-Economic Research", with a grant from international donors, is seeking a highly qualified professionals for the positions of

BUDGET ANALYST, BUDGET ANALYST IN SPHERE OF HOUSING AND COMMUNAL SERVICES

Qualifications:

- University Degree in Finances
- Practical and analytical experience in sphere of economics and public finance
- A work-record for the government or research centers involved in the country's economic analysis, particular in public finance sphere is preferable
- Trainings organization and conducting experience is preferred
- A work-record in sphere of housing and communal services for the position of Budget Analyst in Sphere of Housing and Communal Services is preferred

Job Skills:

- Strong teamwork skills, including interpersonal and communication skills
- Strong analytical skills, competent in legal issues
- Computer proficiency in software package applied for database creation and economic analysis
- Ability to work under pressure

Languages:

- Ukrainian and Russian language fluency
- Excellent English is preferred

Qualified candidates should send electronic CV's in English and Ukrainian to blurb@ukr.rtl.org by **September 15, 2007** indicating "Budget Analyst" or "Budget Analyst HCS" in the subject field. Only finalists will be contacted.



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NAI Pickard expands

NAI Pickard is the exclusive associate for Ukraine for NAI Global, the 6th largest commercial real estate agency group in the world with over 5,000 professional operating from 350 offices in 45 countries.

We are seeking:

Land and Logistics Agency Manager

Our clients include several land banking investment funds, logistic operators, retailers and agriculturalists and all are seeking land for acquisition around Ukraine. We are also letting agents for over 200,000 m² of warehousing space.

Retail Leasing Manager

We are the exclusive leasing agent for 2 retail developments in total 40,000 m². We also represent fast food operators and retail operators seeking space around the country.

Residential Sales Manager

We are the exclusive sales agent for a 5,000 unit residential park and a 220,000 m² apartment block on the outskirts of Kiev. Plus several other similar but smaller projects.

Valuation Manager

From the 1st July NAI Pickard Valuation will commence operation offering a full property valuation service with full Professional Indemnity Insurance in association with our group NAI Global, AON Insurance Services and Lloyds of London.

Regional Manager

Associate offices have also already been established in Odessa, Lviv and Nikolayev with other offices planned in Kharkov, Donetsk and Moldova.

As the first international agency to open regional offices we require regional office manager to coordinate client enquiries with our regional offices.

NAI Pickard is an 'entrepreneurial employer' and seeks not MBAs or academics but those who can 'close the deal'.

We offer good basic salaries with substantial bonus payments to those who succeed. If you believe you can meet this challenge and want to join the oldest and fastest growing international agency in Kiev send your CV to: sshulevska@naipickard.com

Service and Finance department of



is looking to fill a new position of

FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

The deadline for applications is **12th of September**.

If You are interested in this opening - simply e-mail us your resume/cv to liza.shybanova@eu.ffmpeg.com with subject "Financial Controller"

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- ensure safeguarding company assets through strict following all internal control procedures
- carrying out statutory and tax accounting and reporting, payroll and accounts payable operations
- assess financial risks and provide options for decisions to senior management
- ensure successful conducting of fiscal and corporate audit and follow up on audit recommendations
- manage and supervise Financial Control subdepartment and deal with all associates related issues

REQUIREMENTS:

- excellent knowledge of Ukrainian accounting standards and tax rules
- at least middle level of ACCA/CIMA/CPA programs or solid knowledge of US GAAP/IAS/IFRS
- minimum 3 years experience in accounting/finance department, big 4 experience would be a plus
- excellent command of English
- managerial or supervision experience would be an asset

WE OFFER:

- manager position with direct reporting to Service and Finance director
- attractive compensation package that adequately reflects importance and size of the position
- comfortable office environment and flexible timing
- opportunities for continuous growth and development
- working in environment where contribution is recognized and rewarded



BBC Monitoring Kiev

Finance and Administrative Manager, Kiev

BBC Monitoring monitors open-source foreign media from over 150 countries throughout the world in more than 70 languages. We provide news and information to the BBC, government and commercial customers.

You will be responsible for an efficient and smooth day management of financial, administrative and personnel work of the Unit in conjunction with the relevant head office HR and Finance functions. You will be able to take the initiative and make decisions to resolve financial and administrative issues. You will work closely with Editorial staff and Senior System Support Specialist in solving Unit's main operational issues.

You need to have an accountancy or bookkeeping qualification or, alternatively, qualification by significant experience in a complex accounting, budgeting and forecasting environment. Good knowledge of local legal system, Ukrainian legislation, particularly financial regulations and the Labour Code. Excellent IT skills, particularly in the use of spreadsheets and word processing. Excellent interpersonal and communication skills. Ability to deal discreetly with confidential information relating to the Unit and to deal tactfully with internal customers and outside agencies. Good level of education; excellent knowledge of English.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an interview. For an application form or further information please email: vitaly.modlo@rambler.ru. Please do not send us your CV at this time. Applications must be received by **16 September**.

Vacancy announcement



United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites applications from highly qualified, energetic, proactive and experienced Ukrainian professionals for the post of a Short-term National Expert on Renewable Energy Sources (RES).

The expert's main task will be to contribute in his/her knowledge of RES to the development of the following documents:

- comparative analysis of EU and Ukraine long-term energy policies, particularly with regard to their energy security;
- Ukraine's energy security until 2030.

Detailed information on the vacancy requirements can be found on <http://www.un.kiev.ua/bc/jobs/937/>

Deadline for applications is 12 September 2007.

Applications (most recent CVs) in English language with the reference "National Expert on Renewable Energy" are to be submitted to e-mail address: vacancies@undp.org.ua

UNDP Office in Ukraine
1, Klovskiy uzviz, Kiev 01021



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine

The office of the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine is seeking a qualified and motivated person to fill the position of:

ICT ASSISTANT

Tasks:

- administer and maintain ICT hardware and software in the office (back-end and front-end) including but not limited, configuration updates, users' administration, antivirus, hardware maintenance;
- implement release of ICT hardware/software using a standard process: purchase HW/SW, fit to purpose test, roll-out planning, communication and training preparation for users, distribute and install; coordinate with ICT Secretariat any major or significant releases;
- develop and follow up an IT continuity plan for local ICT services including daily/weekly/monthly backup, periodic test and recovery;
- assist the Chief of FAU to prepare yearly ICT budget and follow the expenditure;
- monitor the capacity, availability and service level of local ICT services, and make sure that they are utilized in most effective and efficient way for OSCE;
- assist, advise and train users in the office on using ICT services and applications including providing training manuals; identify and coordinate ICT training for users, and introductory briefing for new staff members;
- act as a record manager and ICT focal point in the office and follow up approved ICT and Document Management Administration Instructions and Procedures;
- perform other related duties as assigned.

Requirements:

- University degree in Computer Science, engineering or related discipline, specialized training is highly desirable;
- minimum 3 years of progressively responsible experience in the management, installation, maintenance and administration of ICT for a small to mid-size organization, preferably in an international or public sector environment;
- professional experience in working with LAN/WAN networking systems based on Cisco, administering Novell Network / Microsoft Windows 2003 server file / print services, and back-end content scanning based on Linux OS; knowledge of Novell Groupwise e-mail system is an advantage;
- good practical knowledge of current standard Microsoft SW packages (e.g. Windows XP/SP2, Office 2003, Project 2002 and Visio 2002, IE 6)
- excellent oral and written communication skills in English, Ukrainian and Russian;
- ability to work effectively with people from different backgrounds. Must be service-oriented and client-focused. Valid drivers license.

The position will commence from **October 2007**. Only the citizens of Ukraine may apply. In order to apply for the position, please use the **OSCE Application Form** which can be found on the OSCE PCU site www.oscepcu.org and has to be completed only in English. You can send your Application Forms via email to Lyubov.Kravchenko@osce.org or by fax: +380 44 492 03 83 to the attention of Ms. Lyubov Kravchenko or send it to the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine, Striletska 16, 01034 Kyiv as soon as possible, but not later than **21 September, 2007**. Please indicate the title of the position in your application.



EUROPEAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

(www.eba.com.ua), non-profit, nongovernmental organization, representing interests of some 700 leading European and domestic companies is seeking candidate for the following position:

RESEARCH AND ANALYTICAL EXPERT:

the successful candidate will have:

- Legal/Economic academic background
- Minimum 2-3 years of relevant experience
- Strong analytical and research Proven legal writing skills, ability to draft legislative documents
- Knowledge of regulatory environment
- Fluency in both written and spoken English (is a must), Ukrainian and Russian
- Computer proficiency
- Ability to deliver high quality outputs with challenging deadlines
- Capabilities of being a team-player along with an ability to work independently and take initiative
- Excellent communication, negotiation and presentation skills
- Knowledge of government structure and operation will be an advantage

Please send your CV and a brief cover letter by fax: +38 044 496 0602 or email: office@eba.com.ua by 17.09.2007

Real estate development company, specializing in construction and development of large shopping centers in Ukraine has

an immediate opening for the position of Construction Manager.

The position of Construction Manager has the following responsibilities:

1. Work directly with our in-house Development Manager in project design coordination between our London architects and our Ukrainian architects.
2. Work directly with the General Contractor in overseeing the entire construction process.
3. Work directly with the Financial Director and monthly reporting.

Potential candidates must have the following skills and experience:

1. At least 3+ years of practical construction/development experience and fundamental understanding of the construction business.
2. Construction experience in Ukraine or Russia. International experience is a huge advantage to us. If the candidate does not have specific shopping center experience but has worked on construction projects in other countries - this is a big bonus.
3. Intermediate English.
4. Excellent people skills and the ability to solve problems quickly and efficiently.

We offer a **competitive salary, plus big bonuses and benefits**. We offer a chance to grow within our Company and learn the real estate development business from a western business style and perspective.

Potential candidates should e-mail their CV in **ENGLISH** to tania@1849plc.com.

SEPTEMBER 6TH, 2007

German Company is looking for a

SALES-MANAGER for our Kiev-Branch

Requirements:

- Sales experience
- Preferably with higher technical education
- Fluent German or English
- 25-45 years old

Please send your CV on e-mail: khudiyash@ohlert.kiev.ua

A leading ukrainian hiv-service ngo announces opening for the following positions in the kyiv central office

DIRECTOR: TREATMENT AND PSM

Requirements:

- At least 5 years of experience in healthcare, human rights or social policy
- At least 5 years of managerial experience in national or international NGO
- Profound knowledge of Ukrainian legislation on procurement procedures and supply management
- Knowledge and experience in strategic and operative planning
- Knowledge of relevant Ukrainian legislation and regulations
- Experience in managing programs involving several organizations
- Clear understanding and commitment to the policy and principles of the organization, knowledge and sensitivity to problems of PLWH community
- Higher education
- Fluent Ukrainian, Russian and English (speaking/writing)

For more detailed information please visit a web-site: <http://www.network.org.ua>
Please send CV and cover letter by 14 September at e-mail: hr@network.org.ua or by fax: (044) 425 6889.



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FRONT-OFFICE STAFF (SECRETARY)

FILM PRODUCTION/SALES MANAGER

Please send your CV to: cv@businesslink.kiev.ua with the title of position in the subject field

FINANCE MANAGER / REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT

The Opportunity: Our business is the construction and leasing of large-scale commercial shopping centers in Ukraine. We're looking for a top-quality Finance Manager to join our management team, with responsibility for planning, managing, and reporting the financial activities of the company. This is a hands-on position suitable for a reliable, effective self-starter who knows how to get things done.

The Ideal Candidate: You are an experienced, accredited accountant with a solid background in real estate development in Ukraine. You have strong management skills and know how to lead and be part of a team. You understand legal and taxation issues, are a fast learner, and are highly organized. You are fluent in English and communicate well.

This is a great opportunity in a fast-growing company for the right person. If you are that person, send your CV and cover letter, stating salary expectations, to: fdukraine@yahoo.com.

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ЛИДЕР ИЗДАТЕЛЬСКОГО БИЗНЕСА В УКРАИНЕ ПРИГЛАШАЕМ ПРИНЯТЬ УЧАСТИЕ В КОНКУРСЕ НА ЗАМЕЩЕНИЕ ВАКАНТНЫХ ПОЗИЦИЙ

МЕНЕДЖЕР ПО ПЕРСОНАЛУ

Требования:

- Опыт работы рекрутером от 2-ух лет
- Инициативность
- Знание основ работы с персоналом
- Знание 1С
- Отличное знание КЗОТ
- Высшее образование

Обязанности:

- Поиск персонала в Киеве и регионах
- Анализ резюме и проведение собеседований
- Анализ каналов поиска сотрудников и оптимизация каналов
- Адаптация персонала

Компания предлагает официальное трудоустройство, отличные условия труда, перспективу роста.

Отправляй CV на job@kppublications.com

ЮРИСТ

Требования:

- Высшее образование (законченное)
- Опыт работы от 3 лет
- Знание гражданского, хозяйственного, налогового и трудового законодательства, права интеллектуальной собственности.
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Samurai-style:
Have a quick sushi snack at the Japanese eatery at Bessarabka
Page 32



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Contact **Editor Alexandra Matoshko**
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SEPTEMBER 6TH, 2007

Kyiv online



Zucchero in concert: Don't miss the fun at GogoFest
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MTV UA promises lots of fun



By **ALEXANDRA MATOSHKO**

Just days after I previewed a number of new Ukrainian music channels a couple of weeks ago, I was able to find them all on my cable TV. However, as it often happens, despite all the variety, there was just one channel to deserve any attention from me.

Star TV, which replaced O-TV (at least on my channel listing), appeared very similar to the latter, playing mainly primitive pop, M2 is all about old videos and concert recordings of Soviet and foreign pop stars, and Biz-TV resurfaced with the very same logos, video inserts, and videos, known to its fans since the golden times of the channel. Yet another music channel Smash!TV was festively presented on Sept. 3, however, it's clearly going to become nothing but an imitation of M1 and the newly appeared Star TV.

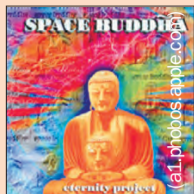
MTV Ukraine, on the other hand, looks really promising so far. Having started broadcasting in a test format Aug. 24, the channel has officially launched its first season Sept. 3, and now is widely available on satellite and cable. MTV UA already hired a team of VJ's fronted by a known writer, Irena Karpa, hosting MTV News. The musical filling of the channel is so far represented by 30 percent Ukrainian and 70 percent foreign artists, and features videos which are now in active rotation on MTV Europe, as well as Ukrainian videos, mainly by bands like Okean Elzy, S.K.A.Y. and Esthetic Education. In terms of programs, the channel is already offering popular MTV shows such as "Bust-a-Move," "TRL," and "Beavis and Butthead." We can also expect programs made in Ukraine - "Rock Ukraine" and "MTV Ukraine Top 20."

However, what excites me most is that "South Park" is listed among the future shows on MTV. Indeed, I've already seen all the episodes of America's most scandalous cartoon series - god bless the people who uploaded them on the internet - but to see it on television, dubbed in Ukrainian, would feel like turning a new page in Ukrainian TV history - if only for crazy fans like me.

(File photo)

CLUBS

FRIDAY 7



"Labyrinth: Space Gateway" party

Brazilian deejay Eliad Grundland is coming to play at "Labyrinth: Space Gateway" party at Most club. A representative of the goa project Space Buddha, Grundland has been working in psychedelic music for 20 years now, presently managing Agitato Records and the project Opium for the Masses. At the party, Grundland will be supported by Spinal Chord and SynSun. **Most Open Air (Moskovskiy Bridge, Park Druzhby Narodiv). 11 p.m. Tickets Hr 70.**



Ukrainian Drum'n'Bass Convention

DJ Anartoliy Tapolskiy, who continues popularizing drum'n'bass among Ukrainians, will this time hold the Ukrainian Drum'n'Bass Convention, which should allow best d'n'b producers to share experiences with each other, as well as Thijs de Vlieger of Noisia trio from Holland. The party line-up will also include Tapolskiy himself, playing together with Redco and singer Katya Chilly, as well as Sunchase, Kid of Zero, IBS Faction, Infuzoria, Medium, Leftie and others.

Forsage (51A Harmatna, 230-3535). 10 p.m. Tickets Hr 80.

SATURDAY 8



DJ Marshall Jefferson

The godfather of house music Marshall Jefferson, who played at Arena Night Club a year ago, now returns with another smashing set. Born in Chicago, Jefferson composed his most famous track, "Move Your Body," in 1986, but it was awhile before it made an impact on the world club scene – at the time hip-hop ruled the dancefloors. Still, the deejay made his breakthrough, became a founder of acid house and influenced the appearance of such popular styles as deep house, garage and techno.

Arena Night Club (2 Basseyna, 492-0000). Midnight. Tickets Hr 50 to Hr 100.

SPORTS

THURSDAY 13



Boxing: "Master of the Ring." Vyacheslav Uzelkov vs. Eric Harding

Eastern European Champion Vyacheslav Uzelkov will take on American boxing veteran Eric Harding in a fight for the WBA Intercontinental light heavy weight belt. Organized by National Boxing Promotion, the fight should be a real battle and Palats Sportu is sure to be packed.

Palats Sportu (1 Sportyvna Ploshcha, 246-7406). 7 p.m. Tickets Hr 20 to Hr 750.

LIVE MUSIC

FRIDAY 7



7 Rasa

Having presented the new album "Ilusion: Maya" to Kyivans this March, leading Russian alternative rockers 7 Rasa are coming back with an acoustic concert dedicated to the 10th anniversary of the band. The Russians are known for their grange-core, which excludes "fuzzes" and "distortions."

Xlib Club (12 Frunze). 7 p.m.

SATURDAY 8



Red Elvices

One of the most famous followers of the King, Red Elvices band is coming to play Kyiv for the first time. Though originating from America, Red Elvices have roots in the USSR. In 1996, three emigrants, Oleh Bernov and Yevgeniy Kolykhanov from Vologda, and Ihor Yuzov from Odessa, decided to rename their band from Limpopo to Red Elvices, and thus it began. The band has toured all over the US and Europe, released 11 albums, and appeared in the TV series "Melrose Place" and a few movies, including "Six-String Samurai," whose soundtrack it also supplied.

Docker Pub (25 Bohatyrskya, 451-8528). 10 p.m.

MOVIES

SATURDAY 8



Ars Electronica Animation Festival 2007

The Ars Electronica Animation Festival first appeared in 1987 as the Prix Ars Electronica contest. This year the jury watched 3,374 animated works from 63 countries of the world, as a result picking 1500 films to be shown at the 2007 Ars Electronica Animation Festival, which will take place in several cities simultaneously: Lintz, Venice and Kyiv. For your convenience, the animation marathon that is to last for over six hours, has been divided into thematical parts: "Deflected Worlds," "Digital Bestiary," "Tales," "Drama," "Fights and Chases," "Visual Effects," and others.

Zhovten (26 Konstyantynivska, 205-5965, www.zhovtenkino.kiev.ua). 11:30 p.m.

SUNDAY 9 – TUESDAY 12



Days of Israeli Movies

During the Israeli Film Festival viewers will get to see some of the best new works of Israeli filmmakers, such as "Walk on Water," about an Israeli intelligence agent assigned to befriend the grandchildren of a Nazi war criminal, "Or," a depressing drama about a hard-working girl and her prostitute mother, which received a Golden Camera in Cannes, romantic comedy "Ahava Columbianit" ("Columbian Love"), and "Lemarit Ain" ("Out of Sight"), about a blind woman who refuses to acknowledge the suicide of her best friend.

Zhovten (26 Konstyantynivska, 205-5965, www.zhovtenkino.kiev.ua). Contact administrator for invitations.

GALLERIES

THURSDAY 6



"Games of Patriots. Ukrainian Gothic." Photographs by Borys Mykhaylov and Mykola Ridniy

If you want to see Ukrainian realities embodied in modern photo art, have a look at the pictures by Borys Mykhailov and Mykola Ridniy. The artists focus on the famous political "blue/orange" theme and play with it, adding elements of absurdity and allegory. The collection of photos, titled "Ukrainian Gothic," shows the contradictory images of Ukrainian modern youth – all clad in black, with metal chains hanging from belts, faces covered with piercings and radically dyed hair.

Kolektsiya (8 Pankivska). Through Sept. 18.



"Color-Tests." Paintings by Maksym Mamsikov

The theme of the paintings created by Maksym Mamsikov is the process of painting itself. The artist doesn't touch upon any political or social context, devoting his works to the physical life of art – its colors and strokes of a brush on the bare canvas. Paint and various textures acquire every bit of the spectators' attention and depict the life of artistic materials, not bothering to portray people or nature.

Kyiv Fine Art (12 Velyka Zhytomyrska, 278-1359). Through Sept. 26.

"Gifts of the Fields." Paintings by Mykola Matsenko

The gallery starts the new season with a "fruitful" collection of paintings, as if promising another year of numerous exhibitions of talented works. Paintings by Mykola Matsenko revolve around the theme of autumn harvesting in Ukraine and feature all the necessary attributes, from juicy red apples to the process of wheat reaping. Visiting such an exhibition during the sunny and warm September weeks will surely provoke nostalgia for calm days spent out in the country.

Ya Gallery (55/57 Voloska, 537-3351). Through Sept. 14.

SPECIAL EVENT

SUNDAY 9



"Football>Rock>Dance Show"

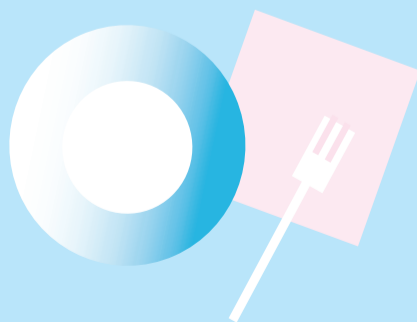
If you love soccer, live music and dancing, don't miss the upcoming "Football>Rock>Dance Show" which will combine all three, as well as free beer for everyone. The rock music will be provided by Kuzma Skryabin, NeDilya, Stantsiya Mir, Cheka, Faktor 150, Koma and Strike, dance beats by DJ Eva, Digital Mono and DJ Sender, and soccer match – by Arsenal-Kyiv.

Palats Sportu (1 Sportyvna Ploshcha, 246-7406). 6 p.m. Free admission.

The Guide section

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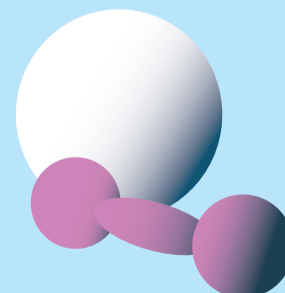
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SPECIAL PICKS

Italian Zucchero to take over Arena

By **MARIA LEONTIEVA**

One of the most famous European musicians, Italian pop singer Zucchero, known especially for the songs "Senza una Donna" and "Con le Mani," will make a stop in Kyiv this September, on his 2007 world tour. Kyiv's audience can look forward to enjoying his best songs and his Italian charm, on Sept. 12 at Arena Entertainment.

Internationally acclaimed Italian superstar Adelmo Fornaciari, known more commonly to his fans as Zucchero, has thrilled audiences worldwide with his pop and blues-infused style for nearly 25 years. He has sold millions of albums in his native country, throughout Europe and beyond, and has received numerous awards and accolades. By the way, his pseudonym "Zucchero," meaning "sugar," has been his nickname from a very young age, and was given to him by an elementary school teacher, who said he was as sweet as sugar, calling him "marmellata e zucchero," "jam and sugar."

Adelmo began playing guitar in his home province of Reggio Emilia, focusing on blues and r'n'b styles. After forming the group Sugar and Candies in 1978, Zucchero began composing Italian pop songs for other artists, and more blues-oriented material for himself. He won the 1981 Castrocaro Festival, which led to performances at the 1982 and 1983 Sanremo Festivals. The exposure allowed Zucchero to release his own solo album, 1983's *Un Po' Di Zucchero*. His

True Italian Zucchero to play his sweet hits for Ukrainians.
(www.wizardpromotions.de)



song, "Donne," performed with the newly formed Zucchero & the Randy Jackson Band, caused a sensation at the 1985 Sanremo Festival; even though "Donne" didn't win, it did become a hit. This introduced the Zucchero blend of Italian pop and electric blues to a larger audience. During the late 80s and early 90s, he became one of the best-selling artists in Italy and a favorite all over Europe. Although he performed at the 1994 Woodstock Festival and appeared with Eric Clapton, Buddy Guy, the Scorpions, and Luciano Pavarotti, Zucchero's American audience remained limited. In 2002, he released another successful solo album, "Shake." Three years later "Zucchero & Co.," a collection of duets with some of his (mainly) non-Italian fans, including Eric Clapton,

Macy Gray, and Sheryl Crow, came out, followed in 2006 by another full-length record, "Fly." It includes the European hit singles "Bacco Perbacco," "Cuba Libre," "Occhi," and "Un Kilo," and features collaborations with artists such as Ivano Fossati and Jovanotti.

Now Zucchero and his band are currently touring to promote "Fly." The last time Zucchero visited Kyiv was eight years ago, as one of the headliners of the Rock-Kyiv fest. At that time I, together with many others, enjoyed his performance greatly, and truly anticipate his upcoming gig.

ARENA ENTERTAINMENT
2A Basseyna, 492-0000
Sept. 12, 7 p.m.
Tickets Hr 150 to Hr 5,000

To GogolFest for art, music and more

By **MARIA LEONTIEVA**

During Sept. 7-14 the first international festival of arts GogolFest, dedicated to the bicentenary of legendary writer Nikolay Gogol will take place at Art Arsenal. The name of Gogol is closely associated with the philosophy of mysticism which is the basis for the biennale of contemporary art in all its volume and spectrum from painting and theater to philosophy and literature. Thus, the project will involve a great advancement in the development of contemporary Ukrainian art. GogolFest project will be realized in several stages and will develop in time till April

2009. The first stage of GogolFest, "Gogol Project," will include visual a section, "Gogol.Portrait," the theatrical performance "Gogol's Death" and concerts.

One of the major events of the musical part of "Gogol Project," Afisha Ethno Party, will feature folk band DakhaBrakha, folk singer Katya Chilly and DJ Sivash, playing at the Center of Contemporary Art "Dakh" Sept. 9. DakhaBrakha, a band playing contemporary folk music, which musicians dub "ethno-chaos," was created at The Center of Contemporary Art "Dakh." This is the fourth ethno-music project of Vladyslav Troitskiy, who has worked as a producer

with such well-known Ukrainian folk groups as Drevo and Bozhychi, which took part in performances of "In Search of a Lost Time..." "Life..." "The Stone Circle," and "Time of Troubles," shown at the international festivals in Munich and Vienna.

CENTER OF CONTEMPORARY ART "DAKH"
36 Chervonoarmiyska, 596-4062
GogolFest – Sept. 7-14
Afisha Ethno Party – Sept. 9, 8 p.m. Free admission
For more information go to www.gogolfest.org.ua

MOVIES

PREMIERES

LOVE AND OTHER DISASTERS
Comedy / Romance, France / UK / USA (2006)
Directed by Alek Keshishian
Starring Orlando Bloom, Brittany Murphy and Gwyneth Paltrow
After the success of Hollywood flick "The Devil Wears Prada" the theme of trainees in fashion industry remains popular. The plot is simple – an intern in the Vogue editorial, tries to help her friends and find true love. However the story is promised to be developed in an unusual and more comic way. Orlando Bloom and Gwyneth Paltrow are appearing in small cameos, so don't be too anxious to see these well-known faces through the whole movie.

MOLIERE
Comedy, France (2007)
Directed by Laurent Tirard
Starring Romain Duris, Fabrice Luchini and Ludvine Sagnier
The film evolves round the adventurous life of the famous playwright and actor Jean-Baptiste Poquelin, mostly known by his stage name Moliere. His life story, intrigues, and love affairs are shown against the background of the French court luxuries, in the middle of seventeenth century, just before the reign of the well-known king Louis the 14th.

HOSTEL: PART 2
Horror, USA (2007)
Directed by Eli Roth
Starring Lauren German, Roger Bart and Heather Matarazzo
The movie is a sequel to the "Hostel" by the same director. This time instead of three backpackers from America, headed to Slovakia, you'll see three fancy girls from Italy that on their way to Prague stop by at the same infamous hostel. What's probably most peculiar about the film, is that the original "Hostel" was banned from Ukrainian theaters the last moment, so I really wonder, if the sequel will reach its hopeful viewers after all.

I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY
Comedy, USA (2007)
Directed by Dennis Dugan
Starring Adam Sandler, Kevin James and Steve Buscemi
Two Brooklyn firefighters Chuck, who is single and Larry, who is a widower with two children, sleep and dream about the new lodging. The only possible chance for them to get the desired flat in a prestigious part of the city is...to get married. Pretending to be a gay couple they are preparing for the wedding and the marriage life with all its difficulties.

ONGOING

PENELOPE
Comedy / Drama / Fantasy, UK/USA (2006)
Directed by Mark Palansky
Starring Christina Ricci, James McAvoy and Reese Witherspoon
Christina Ricci can now add Penelope, an unlucky girl who was cursed at birth to wear an ugly snout in the place of her nose, to her collection of "outcast" roles. Naturally, the only way to break the poor girl's curse is to find a prince who could love her despite her appearance. "Penelope" is clearly a fairytale, but an original one – beauty and the beast switch places, and I'd say it's about time. Somehow, it's always the girls who are forced to kiss the frog, but not in "Penelope."

NO RESERVATIONS
Comedy / Drama / Romance, USA/ Australia (2007)
Directed by Scott Hicks
Starring Catherine Zeta-Jones, Aaron Eckhart and Abigail Breslin
The sister of Kate died and left her small daughter Zoe, who is moving to the aunt's place. Kate, who is a sensational New York restaurant chef and doesn't have much spare time, leaves the restaurant for one week only to meet Zoe and settle her down. Yet upon her return she finds she was replaced by a new cook during her absence.

ARTISTKA (ACTRESS)
Drama, Russia (2007)
Directed by Stanislav Govorukhin
Starring Aleksandr Abdulov, Mariya Aronova and Dmitriy Pevtsov
The film is reminiscent "Bridget Jones" story, only set in Russian surroundings. The main character, Anetchka, is around 30 years-old, divorced, and lives in a small room of a communal house. She is a perpetual loser, but feels herself a true actress, dreaming about the part of Queen Gertrude in "Hamlet" and a playing in movies. Fortunately she has a lovely friend Musya, who regularly supports her and tries to find her a lover.

THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
Action / Adventure/ Mystery, USA (2007)
Directed by Paul Greengrass
Starring Matt Damon, Julia Stiles and David Strathairn
The movie is the third in the series dedicated to the unbeatable Bourne played by Matt Damon, who first appeared in "The Bourne Identity," then in "The Bourne Supremacy" and now continues looking for his lost background, trying to understand who he is and where he comes from. Rushing between New York, Madrid, Moscow, Paris and Tangiers, chased by special agents, the hero nears the completion of his quest – putting the puzzle of his past life together.

FRIENDS FOREVER
Comedy, France (2006)
Directed by Patrice Leconte
Starring Marc Rioufol, Thierry Lhermitte and Josiane Balasco
Patrice Leconte, the director of the well-known romantic movie "The Girl on the Bridge" with Vanessa Paradis and Daniel Auteuil, decided to return to his "Bronzes" saga. "Friends Forever" is the third part of the series that vividly depict the Club Med tourist system. A group of tourists gets acquainted during the vacation in one of the hotels and, once becoming friends, each other promises to keep in touch. The third part clashes the characters 27 years after the vacation, involving new problems and funny situations.

GLYANETS (GLOSS)
Comedy, Russia (2007)
Directed by Andrei Konchalovskiy
Starring Juliya Vysotskaya, Aleksey Serebryakov and Aleksandr Domogarov
Well-known Russian director Andrei Konchalovskiy, who has worked in Hollywood for a long time, has shot a movie that mocks the glamorous show biz world of Russian capital. A provincial girl Galya comes to Moscow to conquer the world of fashion. Refused a job by an editor of a popular fashion magazine she starts her way to stardom assisting popular designers and working at the marriage agency of "elite brides."

HORS DE PRIX
Comedy, France (2006)
Directed by Pierre Salvadori
Starring Audrey Tautou, Vernon Dobtcheff and Gad Elmaleh
Jean, a shy waiter at a luxury hotel, pretends to be a millionaire and awakens the interest of Irene, an adventurer who makes wealthy men pay for her bills. When Irene discovers who Jean really is, she escapes. Problem: Jean is in love and goes after her, finding her at Cote d'Azur. Rapidly ruined, he adopts the lifestyle of whom he loves. Step after step they get closer...

ZODIAC
Drama / Thriller, USA (2007)
Directed by David Fincher
Starring Jake Gyllenhaal, Robert Downey Jr. and Mark Ruffalo
David Fincher, director of such cult movies as "Se7en," "The Game" and "Fight Club," this time opted for a story of a real-life serial killer who called himself Zodiac. Craving not only murder but also publicity, he sent letters and cryptic messages to be published in San Francisco newspapers, terrifying the citizens, and urging not only police, but also the news people – awkward cartoonist (Jake Gyllenhaal) and drunkard journalist (Robert Downey Jr.) to investigate the case. However the result is already known – Zodiac was never found.

FAST FRIEND

Paul Ransted, a Brit residing in Dubai



(Courtesy photo)

Place you call home? Dubai, United Arab Emirates, but I'm from England.

Time in Ukraine? Five days on this trip.

What do you do for a living? I'm working for a South African company Quintica, the solution innovation company in Dubai. I'm a project manager, I am called in to deliver projects on very tight deadlines. I also architect IT solutions for the business using the Information Technology Infrastructure Library best practices.

What brought you to Ukraine? This is my third trip the Kyiv, first one was to look at purchasing an apartment, second for a holiday and the main reason for this trip was to look at the high level feasibility of opening an office in Kyiv.

Your first impression of Ukraine? Waiting in a very confusing line at the airport to find my bags still had not made it from the aircraft. Now I find it wonderful to look at the architecture in Kyiv and coming from Dubai, the green of the trees and grass looks wonderful as well.

Your funniest moment in Ukraine? I was walking down Khreshchatyk in September last year between a Ukrainian and a Dutch friend, and a lady came right up to me and handed me a "Marriage Agency" flyer, the other two gentlemen were totally ignored.

Your favorite places (ways) to spend free time in Kyiv? This trip I

seemed to spend most of my time in Key and Bierstube.

What's your idea of a perfect weekend? Diving with friends on the first day and then going for dinner and drinks, followed with wakeboarding and a beach BBQ the next. Or the Tri-Dive club....Scuba, Sky and another sort of diving all on the same day

What's the key to success in life? Perseverance and intelligence.

Your biggest pet peeve? Taxi drivers. It is nearly impossible to find an honest one.

How would your friends describe you? Friendly, outgoing, loves to joke and laugh.

What was your childhood dream? Flying. I tried to join the Royal Air Force when I left school, but my eyesight wasn't good enough to fly fast jets. So I learnt to fly gliders. I have flown for seven hours without landing all in an aircraft without an engine.

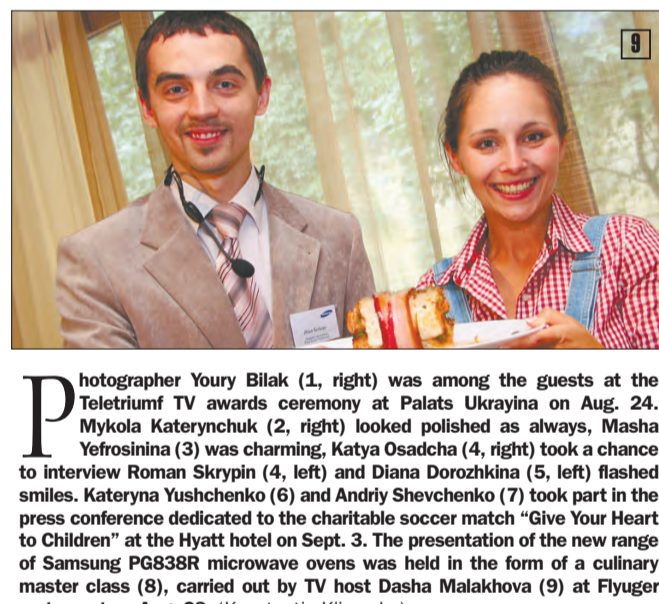
Favorite movie? "Lord of the Rings," "Star Wars," "Stargate" and "Spy Game."

Favorite author? J.R.R. Tolkien, Andy McNab and L.E. Modesitt Jr.

What's in your CD player at the moment? Joe Satriani, Buddha Bar and Evanescence

What is the best place you've traveled to? I like Prague for the architecture of the old buildings, Northern Thailand – for the beauty of the jungle. I fell in love with Surfers Paradise, near Brisbane Australia as it just seems the perfect place to me....never too cold....and not to hot.

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Love and Other Disasters – Daily at 10 a.m., 1.50 p.m., 5.45 p.m., 9.35 p.m.		50 Horkoho (Respublikanskiy Stadion metro), 206-1320/22/24. www.kino-butterfly.com.ua
Moliere – Daily at 10.30 a.m., 7.10 p.m., 9.25 p.m.		Now I Pronounce You Chuck and Larry – From September 6
Hostel 2 – Daily at 9.15 p.m.		Love and Other Disasters – From September 6
No Reservations – Daily at 11.45 a.m., 3.40 p.m., 7.30 p.m.		No Reservations – Ongoing
Glyanets – Daily at 3 p.m.		Bourne Ultimatum – Ongoing (Ukr.)
Bourne Ultimatum – Daily at 12.45 p.m. (Ukr.)		
Artistka – Daily at 5.20 p.m.		
Friends Forever – Daily at 3.10 p.m., 7.15 p.m.		
KINOPANORAMA	UKRAINE	ODESSA KINO
19 Shota Rustaveli, 287-3041, 287-1135	5 Horodetskoho (Khreshchatyk metro), 279-6301/02, 279-6750. www.kino-ukraine.com.ua	3 Prospect Peremohy, Ukraina main, 4th flr., 496-1551/11. http://kinoodessa.com
Hors de Prix – Daily at 10 a.m., 2.30 p.m., 7 p.m.		Love and Other Disasters – From September 6
Zodiac – Daily at 11.50 a.m., 4.20 p.m., 8.50 p.m.		Now I Pronounce You Chuck and Larry – From September 6
KYIVSKA RUS	LOVE AND OTHER DISASTERS	NO RESERVATIONS
93 Artema (Lukyanyvska metro), 486-7474/8273, 461-8061. www.kievrus.com.ua	From September 6	Ongoing
I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry – Daily at 10.40 a.m., 2.50 p.m., 7.20 p.m., 9.40 p.m. (Ukr.)		
Hostel 2 – Daily at 7.50 p.m.		
Bourne Ultimatum – Daily at 11 a.m. (Ukr.)		
Glyanets – Daily at 1.30 p.m.		
BUTTERFLY ULTRAMARINE	GLYANETS	BOURNE ULTIMATUM
1A Uritskoho (Vokzalna metro), 206-0350/60/70. www.kino-butterfly.com.ua	Ongoing	Ongoing
Now I Pronounce You Chuck and Larry – From September 6		
Love and Other Disasters – From September 6		
Moliere – From September 6		
Penelope – Ongoing		
Bourne Ultimatum – Ongoing (Ukr.)		
ZHOVTEN	MOULIERE	FRIENDS FOREVER
26 Konstyantynivska (Kontraktova Ploshcha metro), 205-5951, 417-3004. www.zhovten-kino.kiev.ua	From September 6	Ongoing

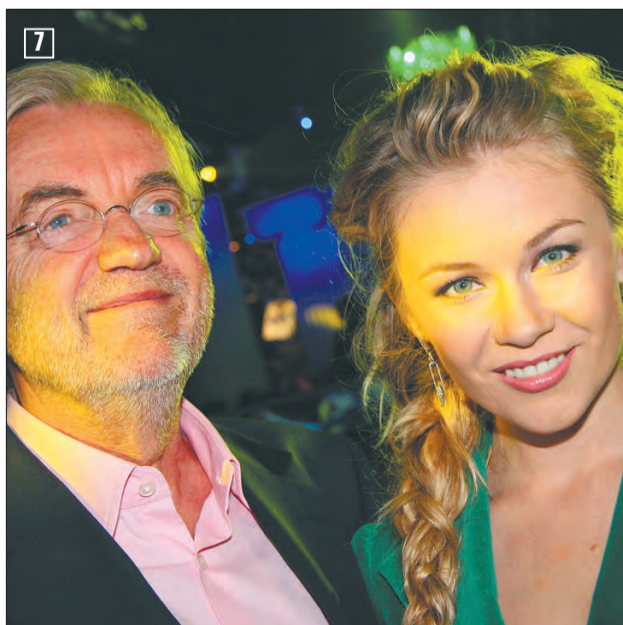


Photographer Youry Bilak (1, right) was among the guests at the Teletriumf TV awards ceremony at Palats Ukrainy on Aug. 24. Mykola Katerynchuk (2, right) looked polished as always, Masha Yefrosinina (3) was charming, Katya Osadcha (4, right) took a chance to interview Roman Skrypin (4, left) and Diana Dorozhkina (5, left) flashed smiles. Kateryna Yushchenko (6) and Andriy Shevchenko (7) took part in the press conference dedicated to the charitable soccer match "Give Your Heart to Children" at the Hyatt hotel on Sept. 3. The presentation of the new range of Samsung PG838R microwave ovens was held in the form of a culinary master class (8), carried out by TV host Dasha Malakhova (9) at Flyuger restaurant on Aug. 28. (Konstantin Klimenko)

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Детальні умови акції можна дізнатися на сайті www.panicover.com.ua

The new restaurant Myslyvets auto-grill opened on Sept. 1 with a fun party (1). Walid Harfouch (2, right) enjoyed himself in the company of his lady, Kathrin Singer-Zaharieva (3, left) and her husband Kamen Zahariev (3, middle) had a great time, and so did the other guests (4). The new Ukrainian music channel Smash!TV was presented on Sept. 3 with a party at Arena Night Club, which gathered the top representatives of the channel (5), a great many guests (6) and the VJs of the channel, including singer Stereoliza (7, right). (Konstantin Klimenko)

Internet mania: browsing the World Wide Web Kyiv-style

By **OLGA KOVALENKO**

Nowadays we use the Internet as often as we go to a store to get some food, or even more often than that, as some people practically live online, staying in front their PCs from dusk till dawn. Practically every apartment now is connected to the Web, and you can be online 24 hours a day with the help of your mobile phone. Moreover, even when staying at a hotel, eating out or dancing at a club, you can write a few emails or check out the latest news, using your laptop and free Wi-Fi.

Getting connected

There are two basic ways to get Internet connection at your home in Kyiv: through broadband technology (via television cables), or dial-up (through the telephone line with a modem) connection. Dial-up connection, while the cheapest, is not that popular anymore, since it's extremely slow. It's provided mostly by small companies, although it's still included on the service list of several large companies. Broadband connection is considerably faster, which is its most favored advantage, and works without failures. The price depends on the amount of information you receive or send (traffic) while working online. Dial-up connection can be established through a modem or DSL lines (digital subscriber lines), which dramatically increase the capacity of a telephone line and permit use of the phone while working on the Internet.

In Kyiv there are lots of Internet providers, but only three of them attract the majority of users – **VoliaCable**, **Golden Telecom** and **UkrTelecom**. The first one, in addition to Internet services, offers Digital TV, whereas the latter two deal solely with phone communications.

As I was working on this article, I was also searching for a convenient Internet provider for myself. I recently moved to a new district, and before that I had a contract with VoliaCable, but for a while they didn't have such wide cable coverage as they have now. By now the company provides connection in most parts of the city and has lured a lot of users from the veteran Internet companies, which is mainly due to the numerous services Volia offers. If you get your TV set connected to cable lines by

VoliaCable, you will not only receive a great number of new TV channels, but will also have the possibility to connect to the Internet. Such options, solving two problems at once, easily make VoliaCable's popular understandable.

Getting Internet connection from Volia requires minimum effort from your side – just call the reception office, choose the amount of traffic you will need, and set the date and time for the installation. The technicians will also deliver you a contract you'll need to fill and a bill which includes the cost of a cable modem, which you can either buy for Hr 199 or rent for Hr 6.90 per month, and a license fee that costs from Hr 25 to Hr 150, depending on your chosen pay rate.

The most popular Internet option at UkrTelecom is **Ogo!** service. The process of ordering the service package is the same as at Volia – just call the service center, where they determine whether it is possible to make a connection to your apartment (depending on your telephone circuit). Then you choose the amount of traffic you require, and set a date for the installation. The installation will cost you Hr 240, and you will need a cable modem, which you can rent at Ukrtelecom for Hr 20 per month or buy for Hr 190 or Hr 168. You could also connect to the Internet by yourself, which will cost you Hr 120. Unlike Volia, which proposes five pay rates, UkrTelecom has only two – unlimited Internet for Hr 80 per month and Hr 69 per 1GB, the whole price will also depend on the speed you choose.

Golden Telecom offers Internet installation at a price of Hr 90, if you are already connected to their telephone line, or Hr 200 to connect both the phone and the Internet. The Internet is provided through DSL and requires rental of a modem for Hr 5 per month. The pay rate depends on the amount of traffic you are going to use and ranges from Hr 45 for 100 Mb to Hr 300 for unlimited Internet each month.

Except for those three biggest Internet providers, in Kyiv there are numerous small ones that mostly deal with dial-up or provide broadband for a few city regions. **Intercom**, for example, offers dial-up services for Hr 1.60 per hour. This service includes callback that makes your Internet cheaper, but while working online it will be impossible to use the regular phone.



VoliaCable makes sure to reach all its potential clients by providing Ukrainian, Russian and English versions of its site and conveniently sorted info.

Companies like **ElVisti** provide Internet connection presumably for large companies and their services are simply not advantageous for individual clients. Thus, Internet connection will cost you around Hr 800 plus Hr 850 for the rent of modem, which is only the price for connection and doesn't include the chosen pay rate. However, ElVisti can setup broadband for the whole building and such a service is an ideal choice for a big company that rents a whole block.

VOLIACABLE (33 Artema, 541-9040, www.volia.com)

UKRTELECOM (18 Shevchenka, 507-0507 www.my.ukrtelecom.ua)

GOLDEN TELECOM (1A Sofiyivska, 490-0000, www.goldentele.com)

INTERCOM (6 Stadionna, 251-1288, www.intercom.ua)

ELVISTI (2A Kryvonosa, 239-9091, www.visti.net)

Online fun

At last, when you have signed all the necessary papers and successfully connected to the Internet, you can freely roam the web. If you don't feel at ease coping with the variety of websites, here is a short list of addresses that can be useful to you.

Probably, the most popular service on the Internet is search engines. Search engines classify information according to key words – all you have to do is enter a word or a combination of words in the search line. All search websites are supplied with services like photo hosting, weather forecast, and Internet shop. Such foreign search engines like Google and Yahoo are known to everybody, but if you want to use solely Ukrainian searchers, the best variants are www.bigmir.net or www.gala.net.

If you want to download or host music, videos, or photo files, the most popular websites are www.youtube.com and www.flickr.com, which are internationally known sites, and www.infostore.org, which is more famous among Ukrainians. It allows sharing and downloading lots of music, videos and photos. As an alternative, you can use www.veoh.com or www.photobucket.com. Also, photo hosting is provided by all searching systems and by special sites for lovers of photography.

In case you need to find information about the forthcoming cultural events in Kyiv, you can drop in at www.kino-teatr.kiev.ua or www.olvia.com.ua for cinema and theater programs, www.music.com.ua for news from the music world, www.lasoon.com.ua for menus and the addresses for all restaurants, cafes and coffee houses in Kyiv, and www.weather.co.ua, or www.meteopro.com.ua for a weather forecast of Ukraine and the popular resorts.

see **TIME OUT**, page 30



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F, Marina, 21, 172/51 kg, blonde with blue eyes. Amazing figure. Cinema hobby. English-speaking.
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TIME OUT, cont'd from page 28

Internet clubbing

The popularity of Internet clubs and cafes that first arose in England is not that high in most other Western countries, yet in Ukraine the number of places where you can check your mail and chat with your friends continues to increase steadily. In addition to fast connection, Internet clubs usually offer light snacks and drinks. If you need to simply work with the files, not using Internet, make photocopies, or scan materials, Internet clubs are once again the place you need. At practically every local post office it is possible to use the Internet, yet the services are usually administered by babushkas used to selling stamps and receiving communal payments, but not dealing with the peculiarities of PCs or the Internet. If you decide to use such services, you should hope that everything will work without failures; otherwise there may not be anybody to give you a helping hand.

The best option is to use Internet clubs largely popular among students, visitors to the city and those who don't have access to the Internet at home or work. The price at such places ranges according to the city region, the highest being in the central part of Kyiv, at places like the **Central Post Office** on Maidan, or **C-club Samsung** in Metrograd. The famous Internet club **Cyber Cafe**, which was the first place to host Internet addicts during the mass computerization of Ukraine, supports it's fame due to this well-known fact and is usually visited by locals who prefer non-formal communication. Long ago it gave way to larger and cheaper clubs, especially those farther from the city center.

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Wi-Fi in town

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DECADENCE HOUSE (16 Rustavelli, 206-4920) Italian, French restaurant-lounge, average meal: Hr 200

IL PATIO (13/5 Ihorevska, 501-7464) Italian restaurant, average meal: Hr 150

LA CASA DEL HABANO (13 Klovskiy Uzviz, 492 7448) Italian, French, Japanese menu, cigar shop and bar, average meal: Hr 250

LIQUOR CAFE (19/33 Yaroslaviv Val, 235-4545) European restaurant, average meal: Hr 100

MARCHE (13 Chervonoarmiyska, 451-4050) French, mediterranean cuisine, average meal: Hr 250

NOBU (12 Rustavelli, 246-7734) Sushi-bar, average meal: Hr 150

ANI (72 Chervonoarmiyska, 590-2565) Armenian restaurant, average meal: Hr 150

BEREZKA (2 Esplanadna, 581-3222) Salad bar, European and Ukrainian cuisine, average meal: Hr 100

VARENICHNAYA NO.1 (28 Esplanadna, 287-1539) Ukrainian cuisine, average meal: Hr 100

IKRA (11 Pankivska, 288-1990) Italian fish restaurant, sushi menu, average meal: Hr 250

KAZBEK (30A Lesi Ukrayinky, 285-4805) Georgian restaurant, average meal: Hr 80

KALEYDOSKOP (51 Chervonozoryanyi, 248-2423) Ukrainian cuisine, average meal: Hr 100

KARAVAN (10 Klovskiy Uzviz, 280-9577) Uzbek restaurant, average meal: Hr 200

KOLESO (Naberezhno-Khreshchatytska, pier No. 14, 462-5596) Russian restaurant, lounge, average meal: Hr 150

KUVSHYN (Politseyskiy Sadik, at the corner of Fedorova and Chervonoarmiyska, 592-6363) Middle-Eastern, Caucasian menu, average meal: Hr 150



Browse the net, print out documents and get other computer-related services at Bunker. (Konstantin Kilmenko)

MIAMI BLUES (114 Chervonoarmiyska, 239-1133) European restaurant, Ukrainian menu, average meal: Hr 100

MAROKANA (24 Lesi Ukrayinky, 254-4999) Fusion restaurant, Moroccan cuisine, sushi menu, average meal: Hr 150

MURAKAMI (Naberezhne Shose, pier No. 2, 428-7224) Japanese restaurant, average meal: Hr 150

PELMENNITSA (56 Chervonoarmiyska, 287-1073) Russian, Ukrainian cuisine, average meal: Hr 150

RUKOLA (Naberezhne shose, pier No. 6, 428-7717) Italian restaurant, average meal: Hr 100

KHINKALI (4 Shota Rustaveli, 234-0692) Caucasian restaurant, average meal: Hr 180

KHUTOROK (Naberezhno-Khreshchatytska, pier No. 1, 425-8039) Ukrainian restaurant, average meal: Hr 180

SHATO (24 Khreshchatyk, 279-3704) Pub, European menu, average meal: Hr 100

LA PSELLA (83 Saksahanskoho, 289-5734) Spanish restaurant, average meal: Hr 150

HAIRY LEMON (34 Lesi Ukrayinky, 230-6017), Cafe-bar, average meal: Hr 60

ANTRESOL (2 Shevchenka, 235-8347) Art book cafe, European cuisine, average meal: Hr 80

BABUIN (39 Khmelnytskoho, 234-1503) Book coffee house, average meal: Hr 80

KUPIDON (1-3/5 Pushkinska, 279-7171) Pub, average meal: Hr 60

KAFKA (11/61 Tolstogo, 390-7197) Coffee house, average meal: Hr 100

REPRIZA (10/5 Sahaydachnoho, 417-1908) Confectionery cafe, average meal: Hr 50

COMMUNITY LISTINGS

BUSINESS CLUBS

Free English Discussions on Canada's Temporary Foreign Worker Program will be held every Sunday throughout August and September. Reserve a seat by emailing jason@rosrec.com. No phone calls please.

The Expat Ukraine Web site (expata.com or expat.com.ua) is a leading expatriate resource for international community of Ukraine since 2003. All services, including an online discussion forum, classifieds and business directory, are free.

The British Business Club in Ukraine meets every Saturday for Business Discussion and once every month for networking membership of the BBCU is by invitation only and is open to individuals and companies. Please e-mail: rbady@bbcuk.com

Swedish Ukrainian Business Club (www.subc.org.ua) strives to unite businessmen and entrepreneurs in Sweden and Ukraine, who are interested in developing business activity between the two countries.

Christian business club strives to unite Christian businessmen. Please email: guide32@ukr.net or call 518-37-81, +38-067-99-103-16.

ENGLISH CLUBS

Free conversation club on Saturdays at Daily Language School. Tel: 425-42-34 e-mail: dailylang@mail.ru

Do you want to improve your English and have fun? Free weekly conversational classes in "Pozniaky" area. Every Saturday at 12:15 a.m. Everybody is welcome. Call 223-59-19 for more information.

Kiev American Club meets Sundays 10am to Noon at our new location in Pechersk. We discuss a wide range of subjects. Qualified US & other native speakers conduct meetings. Tel: 599-2206. e-mail: kivamericanclub@yahoo.com

Free English Discussions about Internet-marketing. Bold Endeavours, a UK marketing and Web-development company, welcomes senior marketing managers/directors to an English-language discussion group about search engines and internet marketing at noon on the first Saturday of each month. Call 536-11-01, or register on-line at www.bold.com.ua

Daily English at PHOENIX CENTER. Improve your Business & Communication Skills in Free Conversation Classes. US & UK Native Speakers. Now by Pechersk Metro. Tel: 599-6080 e-mail: PhoenixKiev@yahoo.com

Free conversation club on Sundays. bivr.Drugbi narodov, 18/7. Everybody is welcome.

Free English/German conversation club on Sundays. bivr.Drugbi narodov, 18/7, of.3 everybody is welcome. 529-7577

Australian English Conversation Club. Free group lessons every Tuesday at 7 p.m. Also, private lessons. Call Mark 8096224534. E-mail: surfberthe2004@hotmail.com

Is English your native language? Come to our discussion meetings on Sunday evening! Help English learners to find out more about your culture & you. Call 5878246 (Edward), email: eduard_sviren@ukr.net

Have some odd books? We'll receive a gift of all books in English. Help English learners to find out more about your culture. Call 5878246 (Edward), email: eduard_sviren@ukr.net

CONVERSATION PRACTICE

Free interpreting from English into Russian from an experienced translator/interpreter (for only native speakers). Russian: need to get a heavy-load practice before a trip to America. Call 80503209647, Oksana

Free conversation club at Daily language school on Saturdays. Prior registration. 8(044)4254234

Korean girl looking for conversation practice (English and German) with native speakers. E-mail: lexia2005@yandex.ru

Looking for English/Spanish conversation practice with native speaker in exchange for Russian/ Ukrainian/ English. Call/ sms Kate at: 8098 443 15 22 or E-mail: chek_me@ukr.net

Let's get acquainted and have a chat. Russian/Ukrainian my native language. English - your. Please contact Tatyana at stardom@ukr.net or 8 050 539-09-35

Ukrainian girl 22 is looking for English speaking friends. Ukrainian/Russian conversation practice and sightseeing of Kyiv in exchange for English practice. Please contact Ann 8067-2362118 or e-mail pomana@mail.ru

Ukrainian girl is looking for English/Spanish friends at exchange for Russian/ Ukrainian practice. Sightseeing. Call Elena 80504418747, e-mail: humanity@bignir.net

Looking for English/ Spanish conversation practice with native speaker in exchange for Russian/ Ukrainian/ English. Call/ sms Kate at: 8 098 443 15 22 or E-mail: chek_me@ukr.net

English-speaking girl won't allow you to be lost in a beautiful city of Donetsk and be your guide. Please call 80963014915. Lyudmyla

Free Russian/Ukraine conversation practice in exchange for English practice. Can show Kiev sightseeing looking for English friends. Oleg 80975734714

Ukrainian girl 23 is looking for international friends. Russian/Ukrainian conversation practice/lessons and sightseeing in exchange for any other foreign language conversation/lessons. Please contact Natasa without hesitating!!! nedashkivska@yandex.ru, 80976821709

Russian/Ukrainian practice in exchange for English practice. Please contact Tatyana 8-050-539-0935.

Ukrainian girl, 18, looking for English speaking friends. Russian/Ukrainian conversation practice in exchange for the English. Please contact Marie at rose_on_coffin@bignir.net or call +380688081309, or write on ICQ 463 156 776

Host Families Club: Learn conversational English at home. When you host young American volunteers you have all the possibility to improve your English and learn more. We help Ukrainian families and American volunteers find each other. Call 246-6742 or 8-050-353-2930.

Free English and Mandarin practice in exchange for Russian language lessons. Contact Ljol at 8-097-700-0000, or email flyliewsj@gmail.com

Ukrainian guy, 27, looking for English speaking friends - to discuss finance, banking in Ukraine or other more funny topics. Personal site - www.ubm.org.ua e-mail: vadyim_n@ukr.net

Free Russian conversation practice in exchange for English one with native speaker. Please contact Oleg without hesitating by e-mail at olnick@bk.ru or call 050-804-38-93 and 097-152-8216

Free Russian/Ukrainian conversation practice/lessons in exchange for Arabic conversation/lessons. Weekends Alex/Valery: 8-096-387-497-3/mich041@yandex.ru

Free Russian/Ukrainian/English conversation practice in exchange for Spanish and/or Italian language conversation/lessons. Call Maryna 8 050 381 27 21 or send mail to armanika@mail.ru

Free Russian conversation practice in exchange for English one with native speaker. Please contact Oleg by e-mail at olnick@bk.ru or call 050-804-38-93 and 097-152-8216.

Free Russian/English communication, language exchange. Please, contact Elena e-mail lo_ahoad@yahoo.com, 8 067 661 51 06.

Russian/English conversation practice in exchange for French and Italian conversation practice with native speakers, on weekends. Please, contact Irina by e-mail at irinasn@ukr.net

Russian/Ukrainian conversation practice, sightseeing and social activities in exchange for English or Spanish. Call Asa: 8(066)2832811, email: nanka_hiker@mail.ru

English lessons in exchange of russian lessons on an english teacher with experience in kyiv please sms or call 80955006308

Free english conversational practice in exchange for russian lessons. Please contact teacher alan 80955006308 or moonspellop@yahoo.com

German native speaker is looking for conversation practice/lessons by person with linguistic background (student/teacher), who can explain grammar on a professional level. Please call Alexander 8 095 529 5333.

Ukrainian / Russian / English conversation practice in exchange for Afrikaans lessons. Contact Lisa Drubushevska, drubushevska@gmail.com, 80675024466.

Cambridge graduate offers English and French in return for Russian/Ukrainian. I'm in CT! coffee parlor (in "Two Geese" above) Kreshatik 7/11 most Sundays 1100-1300. Email Michael_Bedwell@hotmail.com

Japanese conversation practice with native speakers for Ukrainian or German or English native speakers. Call 8-095-467-3566

Ukrainian guy 24 is looking for English speaking friends to have a conversation practice in exchange for Russian/Ukrainian. Please contact Kirill by phone 80653529842 or e-mail: kirill@ukr.net

Free Russian/Ukrainian conversation practice or lessons in return for English conversation practice. Any help for foreigners in Kyiv. Call or sms 80632690014. Vladimir

Looking for English and Italian lessons and conversation practice from native speaking FL teacher. Wright to bg@sprachennet.com or call Bogdan 8067-4644204.

Free Russian conversation in exchange for English. Please contact Luda 8067-682-8706

Free Russian/English communication language exchange. Please contact Elena mob. 8 067 234 19 91 e-mail: lo_ahoad@yahoo.com

Free Russian/Ukrainian conversation practice, in exchange for English practice. Can show Kiev sightseeing Looking for English speaking friends. Intelligent girl Karri 80976934368.

Free Russian/Ukrainian conversation practice in change for English with a native speaker. Please contact Nadzhdha e-mail: Rnad@list.ru or call 8(095)481-59-56.

Russian/Ukrainian conversation practice on different topics in exchange for English one with female native speaker. Sightseeing. Julia, 8097-951-05-57

Ukrainian conversation practice in return for English. studentforever@yahoo.com

Ukrainian girl looking for English/Turkish friends in exchange for Russian/Ukrainian practice. (prefer native speakers) Contact Anuta 8-097-323-4911 or email: kalbim@bignir.net

Ukrainian girl offers Russian or Ukrainian communication practice in exchange for English, German or Italian. Personal assistance. Sightseeing. Please contact Tanya at 8 068 711 57 17

Ukrainian girl, looking for English speaking friends. Kiev sight-seeing on weekends. I think we'll find a lot of things to talk about. Please contact Yulia. cheerfulprod.ru, 8 067 939 20 54

Bonjour, french guy offers french or english communication practise in exchange for russian practice contact charles_france@hotmail.com or +38 050-869-10-95

Free Russian, Ukrainian, English conversation practice/lessons from the English philology student in exchange for English, German or Spanish. Contact me without hesitation at 80979255091, 8937769444, icf_375881862@schwa@mail.ru, Nastya

Russian/Ukrainian grammar and conversation practice in exchange for English lessons. Please, contact Elena: prehlen@bignir.net

Ukrainian guy offers Russian/Ukrainian communication practice in exchange for English. Personal assistance. Please contact Taras. 8 066 395 28 77, e-mail: sitar@ukr.net

Ukrainian/Russian/English conversation practice in exchange for POLISH conversation with native speaker. Please, contact Olga: olga_b82@list.ru, 8-093-8410853

Ukrainian girl 22 is looking for French speaking friends to have a conversation practice in exchange for Russian/Ukrainian/English. Call Lina 80674580179, 80674580179, zukyknka@mail.ru

Free Russian, Ukrainian conversation practice from the english philology student in exchange for English, French. Please contact me 80509317846 or sladkaya@meta.ua, or for more information see www.toastcrackers.com

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Art-Talkers Toastmasters International Club invites those interested in improving public speaking, communication skills and creative abilities to join its meetings on Saturdays at 11 a.m. at the British Council (Library room), 4/12 Hryhoriya Skovorody (metro - "Kontraktova ploshcha"). Call +38 067 934 2899 or e-mail at info@arttalkers.com. <http://arttalkers.wordpress.com>

European Business Association Toastmasters Club gathers enthusiastic people determined to improve their communication and leadership skills in a friendly learning environment. The membership is open for employees of companies-members of EBA. We meet Mondays at 7 p.m. (1A Andriyivskiy Uzviz, EBA premises). For details see www.eba.com.ua/activities/toastmasters-ter or contact Nadiya Bilyk at N_Bilyk@ukr.net

Top Talkers Toastmasters Club invites professionals and students to develop their public speaking and leadership skills in supportive environment. Visit us every Wednesday at 7:30 PM at Kyiv Mohyla Business School, room 425, 4th floor, 8/5 Voloska Street, Kyiv, Ukraine. For more information see www.toastcrackers.com or contact Inna Movchun at +38(068)356-2217, +38(093)920-1060, innotoptalkers.com

Kyiv Toastcrackers Club, a part of Toastmasters International, is a world-wide organization that helps men and women learn the arts of speaking, listening and thinking through effective oral communication. We invite new people to benefit from the meetings on Wednesdays, at 7 p.m. at the House of Scientists, 45a Volodymyrska St. For more information see www.toastcrackers.kiev.ua or email Olga Popoglova at toastcrackers@mail.ru

Dniro Hills Toastmasters Club invites successful-oriented people to learn or develop public speaking, presentation and leadership skills. Join us Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the International Institute of Business at 51 Dehtyarska. For detailed information, please contact Vera Viter at viter_vera@yahoo.com

Those interested in improving their public speaking, communication skills and creative abilities are invited to the ArtTalkers Toastmasters Club on Saturdays, at 12 a.m. at the British Council, 4/12 Hryhoriya Skovorody (Kontraktova ploshcha). Call +38 067 934 2899 or e-mail at info@arttalkers.com. <http://arttalkers.wordpress.com>

The American Chamber of Commerce Toastmasters Club invites English-speaking professionals to advance their communication and presentation skills in a supportive environment. The membership is open for employees of companies-members of American Chamber of Commerce. We meet every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at 10 Voloska Street (Kontraktova Ploshcha metro). For further detailed information, please contact VP PR Julia Zhnytsya at zhnytsya@lshkiv.com

Leadership Conference entitled "Building Successful Leaders for an Emerging Ukraine: Leadership Principles That Work in Government, Business and Non-Profit" - Friday, March 30, at the Kyiv Hotel from 9am-3:30pm. Free admission.

FIND A ROOMMATE

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INTERNATIONAL CLUBS

The Rotaract Club Kyiv-Center meets on Thursday at 7:15 p.m. at the Ivana Franko str. 16/2 in the library of Adam Mitzkevych. For more information, please, contact Olga Oleksyuk +38 067 332 30 39 or e-mail: olga.votovychn@rotaract.kiev.ua. Web site www.rotaract.kiev.ua

The Rotary Club Kyiv-Center meets on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. at the Zhelyaznytska in the Premiero Cafe. For more information, please contact either Momnil Hogue +38 066 959 6610 or e-mail: rc_kyiv_center@yahoo.com, or Krolsyny Peter +38 044 234 2091, +38 044 234 0352, +38 050 310 8374.

Amnesty International English Speaking Group. Meetings are held every other Tuesday of the month at 7pm. Become informed, get involved and bring up

on your English. Meetings are held at the German Lutheran Church, Vul. Luteranska 22. Call/email for more details. 8066 247 4099. amnestykyiv@yahoo.com

Democrats Abroad Ukraine is the official organization of the Democratic Party in Ukraine: connecting Americans with U.S. politics and the Democratic Party; registering, informing, and motivating voters; supporting U.S. candidates, holding events, and fundraising. To join, email info@democratsabroad.org.ua

The Kyiv Multinational Rotary Club welcomes all Rotarians who are in Kyiv and new potential Rotarians. Our meetings are held in English and are held in the lower level of the Golden Gate Pub every Monday evening at 7 p.m. with the exception being the second week of the month when they are held on Tuesday evening. For more information go to our website at www.kyivmultinational.org

The International Women's Club of Kyiv (IWCK) welcomes women from around the world to join our support network and participate in our extensive social and charitable programs. For more information, look at our website www.iwck.org, call or email the IWCK office to Vita Guseva who is IWCK Program Coordinator: 234-3180, office@iwck.org. Address: 39 Pushkinska, #51, entrance 5, door door club

The Kyiv Lions Club is an international volunteer organization that raises funds and provides services to help those in need, including vulnerable children, disabled, and elderly. Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month in the Boty Bar of Golden Gate Fish Pub at 1900. For more information, contact Xen Nachbar at 463-7429, or email: kic@ventureukraine.com

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- 6B Pidvysotskoho, 11th fl., 118 m2, 3 rooms, unfurnished/ furnished, renovated. \$2500 per month.
- 69 Dmytrivska St., 4th fl., 136 m2, 4 rooms, furnished, renovated. \$5000 per month.
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HOTEL SERVICES

Location (St.)	Condition	Rooms	Area	Rent (per day)
Velyka Vasylkivska	Excellent	1	45	70
Prorizna	Excellent	2	65	95
Saksahanskoho	Excellent	3	100	150

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Location (St.)	Condition	Rooms	Area	Rent
Velyka Vasylkivska	Excellent	2	60	1500
Voloska (Podil)	Excellent	2	65	1750
Hoholivska	Excellent	3	80	1900
Saksahanskoho	Excellent	3	90	3000
Tolstogo	Excellent	4	120	3600
Druzby Narodiv	Excellent	2	55	1000
Observatorna	Excellent	5	190	5500

APARTMENTS FOR SALE

Location (St.)	Condition	Rooms	Area	Price, \$
Kropyvnytskoho	Excellent	1	40	6000/sq.m
Basseina	Needs renovation	2	60	call us
Pimonenko	Good	1	36	144000
Chervonoarmiyska	Good	3	64	220000
Darvina	Good	3	88	call us

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FOR RENT
Sovki area. House, 400 m2, 5 bedroom, living room 45m2 with fireplace, 3 levels, unfurnished, fitted kitchen, air conditioning, western standard, garden, garage for two cars. 6300\$ per month. 425 77 07, 425 77 08 www.kievcityres.com

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Having dinner in the company of Seven Samurai

By **ALEXANDRA MATOSHKO**

Due to its location on the outer side of the Besarabskiy market building, I must have passed Seven Samurai about a million times, and recently decided I just had to check it out. My aspirations, however, were slightly chilled down by the comments I read about the restaurant on www.afisha.ua. The users seemed quite unimpressed with the place, to say the least. Always trying to keep my reviews positive, and therefore simply avoiding places with questionable reputations, I was at first reluctant to go. But it so happened that just recently I ventured to a presentation-party at Arena Night Club, and because the event turned out to be boring – just as expected – I suggested to my friend that we leave soon, and instead have a small evening meal somewhere close by. After all, you can never judge anything until you see and try it for yourself, so before long we stood before the entrance leading

THE SURROUNDINGS MADE A VERY CASUAL IMPRESSION – THE OPPOSITE WALL WAS EMBELLISHED WITH PHOTOGRAPHS OF JAPANESE CUISINE DISHES AS WELL AS JAPANESE-STYLE PAINTINGS ILLUSTRATING THE NAMESAKE OF THE RESTAURANT – THE DARING AND WILD-FACED SAMURAI.

to two establishments – The Wall bar located in the basement, and Seven Samurai sushi restaurant.

The medium-sized rectangular hall had a dozen or so tables, a few of them placed behind screens that separated a cozy VIP room for those who prefer dining in a more intimate atmosphere. As soon as we picked a table by the window and took our seats, the waitress approached and handed out the two menus – paper leafs placed between two

plates of wood. The surroundings made a very casual impression – the opposite wall was embellished with photographs of Japanese cuisine dishes as well as Japanese-style paintings illustrating the namesake of the restaurant – the daring and wild-faced Samurai. There were also a few Japanese fans attached to the wall here and there, but for the most part the interior was a very typical sushi-bar. Waitresses were dressed in minimalist grey blouses and only the two bartenders hanging out by the bar had something like Japanese-style outfits on.

The menu wasn't a revelation to me – as it was already around 9 p.m. and I wasn't exactly hungry, I wished for something truly delicious and light, but I wasn't able to find any rolls with eel and cream cheese – my favorite roll combination. Still, anxious to taste the cooking, we made the order – an "Unagi Hofu" roll (Hr 66) for me, and a "Syake Kunsei" (Hr 56) for my friend, accompanied by cherry and "Perfection" teas.

The two teapots arrived in a few moments, closely followed by the food. I gave mental credit to the eatery for its promptness – it was indeed a late hour with few customers around, but many local restaurants would take their time with your order regardless of that. My "Unagi Hofu" was a roll of eel with Japanese omelet, asparagus and tofu – a tasty-sounding combination indeed. However, in this case there was nothing impressive about it. I had already tried making sushi myself at home, and even made it once with eel, which I accidentally discovered at Billa supermarket by my office. I guess the taste of my own cooking – and I'm nothing but an amateur – could be compared to the roll I had at Seven Samurai – it was OK, but it lacked a certain richness of taste, the rice felt a bit dry and the bit of eel placed on top of rice kept falling off as I dipped each bit into the soy sauce. My friend's roll of smoked salmon, shrimp, cucumber and flying fish caviar was similar – quite proper without exactly being delicious.

Having finished the food, we carried on chatting, sipping on our teas, which were both fine. Mine was slightly sour, with a strong cherry flavor, and my friend's "Perfection," with mint and various fruit, had a soothing and relaxing taste. I had to conclude that Seven



Hide from strangers' eyes having sushi in the non-smoking VIP room of Seven Samurai. (Vitaliy Pavlenko)

Samurai neither justified nor exceeded my expectations. I've indeed had better sushi in this town and the service was far from perfect, but the prices were indeed rather cheap for such a central location. Speaking of the latter, it was at attracting tourists – clearly a major part of clientele at the eatery. They could easily spot its big windows richly painted with samurai figures from the street, and coming in just for a quick bite, they would hardly complain about the food. The group of youngsters, laughing and talking loudly in English

and an Italian-looking gentleman on our right, who consumed soup with a concentrated look on his face didn't seem to be disconcerted with anything, and neither were we for that matter.

SEVEN SAMURAI
2 Besarabska Ploshcha,
235-3388
Open daily 10 a.m.
till 2 a.m.
English menu:
English-speaking staff:
Average meal: Hr 80

RESTAURANT NEWS

Along with the exhibition "Horoscopes, or Zodiac Ukrainian-style," by Olesya Kara-Kotsya, now being held at Crepe de Shin, a special menu was introduced at the eatery, that includes 12 crepes, each prepared with a certain filling that is best suited for a certain zodiac sign. For instance, Virgos are offered crepes with salmon, broccoli and champignons, under beetroot sauce with feta and cedar nuts, and for Libra – crepes with chicken liver, bacon, eggs "pashot" and arugula-based sauce. Hurry up to try the crepes that suit your sign till the end of the month.

CREPE DE SHIN
25 Gogolivska, 537-7070
Open 8 a.m. till the last customer

In time for the autumn season the chef of **Marrakesh** has prepared a new special of five dishes. Those are: Breton mussels baked in breading with parmesan and Provençal herbs with squid cooked in olive oil with saffron water; escargot Marrakesh-style – Burgundi snails confit fried with spinach under gruyere and parmesan with classical cream-and-garlic sauce; "Medina" – Saint Jacques Coquilles wrapped in prosciutto served with mussels and red mullet filet, stuffed with gorgonzola; "Kaddafi" – wild boar filet under juniper sauce served with ratatouille of spinach and potatoes; "El Asar" dessert of biscuit filled with warm chocolate, served with vanilla sauce and lemon-and-lime mousse.

MARRAKESH
24 Sahaydachnoho, 494-0494
Open 11 a.m. – 1 a.m.

Chinese eatery **Mandarin** is offering a renewed menu. The newest additions include: catfish filet stuffed with pork and bamboo, shitake mushrooms and sweet and sour sauce; chicken with grapes; duck breast on a "pillow" of potato chips, served with two sauces – raspberry and cherry; "Rising Sun" – duck legs fried with almonds, leek and ginger, served with lemon segments; steamed Shumai dumplings; tofu cubes stuffed with pork and other dishes.

MANDARIN
Naberezhno-Khreshchatytska,
berth No. 6, 599-0877
Open noon till midnight

Please send your restaurant news to
Alexandra Matoshko at
matoshko@kyivpost.com.

novynar.com.ua

Час прийшов...

A raid across the city's jeans shops ends in success

By MARIA LEONTIEVA

By far, jeans are among the key items in the wardrobe of any modern woman or man. Because jeans are usually durable and can be worn with just about anything, they are universal clothing. Never really going out of fashion, denim is among the must-haves again this season, and not only in pants – jackets, shorts, bags and shoes of that same material are also offered in great variety, allowing you to dress from head to toe in your favorite denim. A great number of stores in the city are offering an overwhelming assortment of jeanswear, so to make your jeans shopping easier, you can use the results of my jeans shops raid.

Jeanswear shop chain Gloria Jeans & Gee Jey was initially marketed as a men's clothing brand, but later started offering clothes for kids. Almost certainly, the average schoolboy or schoolgirl would feel quite comfortable shopping at the store, but a real jeans connoisseur, or anyone with adult tastes, would hardly find anything suitable there. While the assortment is quite varied, there are hardly any chic, classy or trendy jeans models there.

The stores of the jeans and sportswear brand Madoc offer a huge variety of denim wear, including skirts, shorts, waistcoats and of course, jeans. However, I found the clothes arranged quite inconveniently at the store. New arrivals and jeans from previous seasons were mixed, so I had to rummage through all the shelves and hangers till I was able to find what I was looking for.

I used to shop at Lee Cooper quite often, finding nice fitting jeans there. But

I really dislike their fitting rooms. Not only are they very cramped, but you have to leave the dressing room to check out the clothing in a mirror, which is placed on the back side of the door. As a result shop assistants and other customers might stare as you twist and turn before the mirror, which I find quite annoying.

In my opinion Levi's jeans are the longest-lasting ever created by man! They may not be very girly, and have no added adornments like beads or embroidery, but there's one thing you can be sure of – the pair you get at Levi's will last you a lifetime. One downside, though, is that Levi's most central store at

Globus is small and narrow, so it's hard to move around in there, and while the selection of denim for men is quite big, it's considerably smaller for women.

Another high-end jeans brand, Diesel, whose store is located close to Levi's at Globus, sells jeans starting at Hr 1,500, which is quite pricy for such casual wear. They are indeed nicely cut and are very popular among hip youngsters who can afford them, however, I dislike the way the garments are often labeled "Diesel" in big letters, and the superfluous decor on their nicely designed jumpers and hoodies. Also, the shop assistants appear arrogant and bored, seemingly scrutinizing every customer walking in, as if to decide if he or she belongs at the store.

Motor Jeans is targeted at elegant modern men and women, carrying a wide assortment of basic jeans, designed in the latest styles. Apart from denim pants, Motor Jeans also has cute tops and nice jumpers and hoodies. However, their skirts should be left to



supermodels, since they are so short that you would have to be very brave and confident to go out wearing them.

After I tried almost every other pair in every other jeans shop in town, searching for my perfect jeans, I finally arrived at Colin's. Upon entering the shop on Bohdana Khmelnytskoho (there are about 10 Colin's shops in Kyiv overall) I was greeted by a sales staff member who kindly explained to me the size system at Colin's, which as we all know, may differ from store to store. While I was trying on clothes in the fitting room, the helpful assistant brought me all the many pairs of jeans

I had requested. I really liked a number of different models, which all fit very well. Some were more suitable for casual urban wear, others – for dressing up for a dance club. Considering the comfortable arrangement of clothes at the store, which apart from jeans includes sportswear, T-shirts and even dresses, and its price politics – around Hr 300 for a medium pair – I knew that my favorite jeans store was finally found.

COLIN'S
10A Bohdana Khmelnytskoho,
238-2292

TIP OF THE WEEK

How to get directions in Kyiv

No one ever plans on getting lost, but unfortunately it may happen when you least expect it, especially when you're in a city for the first time. What's worse, if you don't speak the local language, it might be hard for you to get directions from a passer-by. Luckily, in Kyiv you can get directions simply by using special informational portals, installed at a number of the busiest points in the capital, on main streets by metro entrances, such as Khreshchatyk, Maidan Nezalezhnosti and Ploshcha Lva Tolstoho, at the corner of Besarabska Ploshcha and Khreshchatyk and other spots. The portals look similar to ATM machines, but tagged with an "I" for information, and supplied with a screen and a keyboard that allows you to scroll through the menu and choose a language – Russian, Ukrainian or English.

These portals can help you navigate the city in the most efficient way – by foot, metro, bus or car, see all the main tourist sites, as well as find directions to get to a certain restaurant, shop or movie theater. Moreover, it provides information about Kyiv and pictures of various historical sites, as well as info on hotels or apartments available for rent per day. However, if all you need is directions to tell you how to get from one point to another, you can simply have a look at the city map, as well as check out the list of addresses and useful phone numbers.

– Maria Leontieva

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SEPTEMBER 6TH, 2007

Vincenzo Scocca, working to help Italians invest in Ukraine



(Konstantin Klimenko)

By **OLGA KOVALENKO**

Guided by the mild voice with a characteristic Italian accent coming from the mobile phone, the photographer and I were trying to find our way around a construction site (which Vincenzo later claimed to be a future Cossack restaurant) in Podil, searching for the necessary office building. Making the final turn around a corner, in the window right across the street, I saw our Word With... guest himself, Vincenzo Scocca, waving at us. Hailing from Milan, one of the busiest cities in Italy, Vincenzo appeared to be a true representative of his hometown – a busy man from head to toe.

"Actually I was born in a small town near Venice, in the north of Italy, then moved to Bologna to study law," Vincenzo said, revealing the details of his development into a professional lawyer. "In Milan I was working as a lawyer specializing in insurance, so I didn't change the sphere of my work, I just continued working in this field," Vincenzo explained in answer to my doubts concerning the switch from his original specialization. Now he works as a representative of the Milan Brokers

company, which "provides all sorts of services for Italian companies that want to make investments in Ukraine," as our guest explained to me.

"A lot of Italians, working both in industry and agriculture, want to invest their money into Ukrainian factories. We search for the best plant and calculate the risks of the investment – that's our main business; of course we also provide additional services for the companies."

Though Vincenzo is not a long-term Ukrainian resident, he is already keen on Slavic mentality and culture. "I've been in Ukraine since last year. Before that I was working in Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Moldova, and Romania. I have lived abroad for the last 10 years and all this time in Eastern Europe," he added, smiling.

Despite having spent such a long period outside of his native culture, Vincenzo appeared absolutely satisfied with the new environment, which seems to be more convenient for him than his native one. "I like it here in Ukraine – Kyiv, Odessa, Lviv, Nikolaev, Kherson, Dnipropetrovsk – I've visited lots of cities already. I travel somewhere every month." Vincenzo didn't seem bothered

at all, while enumerating all the differences and similarities between Italy and Ukraine.

"The south of Italy is more like the south of Ukraine by its mood and the weather is practically the same. When I came here I expected the winter to be minus 30 at least, but it was even warmer than in Italy." He sounded truly

SOME 30 YEARS AGO THE TIME WAS FOR WESTERN EUROPE, NOW IT'S THE RIGHT TIME FOR UKRAINE TO START; EVERYTHING WILL BE HERE IN THE NEAREST FUTURE.

content while talking about the relaxed atmosphere of the capital: "In Milan, people are constantly stressed and nervous, all the time running somewhere; in Kyiv it's much calmer."

Like all Italian expats, probably, Vincenzo was preoccupied with the absence of true Italian cuisine in

Ukraine. "In Kyiv there is probably only one place where they cook truly Italian food – Pizzeria Napule."

However, the difficulties he faced here weren't just concentrated around Italian cuisine, but around language. Yet, Vincenzo successfully deals with this obstacle by learning Russian. "I can read well in Russian, I understand everything, though it would be hard for you to understand what I say because of the accent." At this he underlined that he likes "learning, discovering new things, but hates studying."

"Learning in practise is the best – while communicating, reading, listening to music or watching a movie," he explained. Above all, Vincenzo appeared to be a lover of Russian music, including that of the 80s, and old Russian movies. "I went to Odessa and first of all went to see those Potemkin stairs, which were in the movies," he added. Understanding that Ukrainian culture differs from Russian, he nevertheless stayed in his position of likes and dislikes concerning both languages. "Russian is more practical for foreigners because of the language mixture in Ukraine, especially in Kyiv. A lot of my friends started learning Ukrainian when they came here, but

then they changed it for Russian, because everybody here speaks Russian."

Despite difficulties, Vincenzo has a strong intention "to stay in Kyiv for the nearest five years and buy a house outside of the city." Exploring different countries for such a long period of time, he confessed that he feels more like a tourist in Italy now: "When I come, probably once in half a year, I don't recognize the country – it's totally different. Italy is now more like a big Luna Park for foreigners, for true Italy you should go to some small towns, like Palermo. In the big cities like Rome, Milan, Florence, and Venice you won't see Italians any more, all the people in the streets are tourists," Vincenzo said. That is the main reason, as our guest remarked, that he doesn't feel any nostalgia while living here and supports his idea with optimistic prospects for Ukraine and other eastern countries. "Ukraine is the biggest European country and has lots of prospects. Some 30 years ago the time was for Western Europe, now it's the right time for Ukraine to start; everything will be here in the nearest future."

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